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CONTENTS

13 June 1995

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 May 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Adviser: Gap Still 'Wide' With Israel *[Jericho VOP]* 3
'Arafat Wants Janin District in Janin First Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
'Arafat: Hamas Received Blank Israeli Documents *[DAVAR 12 Jun]* 4
Al-Husayni: PA To Reestablish E. Jerusalem Council *[Jerusalem TV]* 5
Al-Husayni on Settlers, Islamic Jihad Leader's Wife *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Al-Rujub Seen Threatened by New Arrivals *[MA'ARIV 9 Jun]* 5
Hamas Denies 'Settlement' With Jordan Over Expulsion *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun]* 7
Islamic Party Draft Founding Document *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Jun]* 8
Al-Zahhar: Party Would Not Be Substitute for Hamas *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Jun]* 9
PA, Hamas Understanding on End of Attacks Reported *[Jerusalem TV]* 9

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Official 'Cautiously Optimistic' on Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Jun]* 10
    Further on Israeli-Syrian Peace Talks *[AFP]* 11
U.S. Urged To Consider Syrian 'Sensitivity' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Jun]* 11
Palestinians Demanding IDF Withdrawal From All Towns *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Israelis, Palestinians Meet on Early Empowerment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Peres Meets Mauritanian Foreign Minister *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Vietnamese National Assassinated in Tiaret *[Algiers Radio]* 13
    Ministry Condemns Killing *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Al-Nahdah's Djaballah on Stance on Elections *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun]* 13
Djaballah Says Harcha Meeting 'Successful' *[London AL-HAYAH 11 Jun]* 14
Islamic Society Figures Preview London Meeting 15
    Nahnah Explains Meeting's Goal *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Jun]* 15
    Menasria Describes Aims of Trip *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Jun]* 16
FFS Aide: 'Violence Will Never Triumph' *[London AL-HAYAH 10 Jun]* 16
Dembri Meets Jordanian Foreign Ministry Official *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Minister Reaffirms Intention To Hold Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Musa Meets Pelletreau, Comments on Negotiations *[MENA]* 17
Al-Sharif Comments on Mubarak Talks With 'Arafat *[MENA]* 18
Mubarak, 'Arafat, Gambian President Hold Talks *[MENA]* 18
Musa Meets Gambian President, Comments on Ties *[MENA]* 18
Irish Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement *[Cairo Radio]* 18
    Holds Talks With Mubarak *[MENA]* 19
Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. Meeting Seen Heralding Peace *[Cairo Radio]* 19

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From Talks in Malawi *[Omdurman Radio]* 20
Italian Relief Doctor To Be Investigated, Charged *[Omdurman Radio]* 20
    Rebels Divert UN Plane Carrying Doctor *[AFP]* 20
    Ministry Confirms Rebel Seizure of Plane *[Omdurman Radio]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Urges Iran-UAE Talks Over Disputed Islands *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Jun]* 22

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on POW Meeting, GCC Statement *[KUNA]* 22
Assembly Rejects Bill on Using Reserves for Deficit *[KUNA]* 22

Saudi Arabia

Papers Comment on GCC Meeting, Ties With Egypt *[SPA]* 23
Council Praises Fahd Meeting With Yemen's Salih *[SPA]* 24
CDLR Bulletins Address Various Issues 24
    No. 46: Muslim's Duty *[London CDLR Monitor]* 24
    No. 47: Detentions, Protests *[London CDLR Monitor]* 27
    No. 48: Hajj, 'Crisis' With UK *[London CDLR Monitor]* 28
CDLR Communique Views Judiciary, Shari'ah *[London CDLR Monitor]* 29

Yemen

Prime Minister Calls Salih's Saudi Visit 'Excellent' *[SPA]* 30
Al-Iryani Briefs Envoys on Salih-Fahd Summit *[Sanaa Radio]* 31
Ex-President Hails 'Relaxation' in Saudi Ties *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Jun]* 31

IRAQ

Ramadan Praises Saddam's 'Courageous' Premiership *[AL-THAWRAH 29 May]* 33
Baghdad Official Calls Zirconium Seizure 'Set Up' *[AFP]* 35
    Paper Decries 'Cheap' U.S. Move *[AL-QADISIYAH 10 Jun]* 36
PUK Claims KDP Violates Truce, Shells Areas *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 37
PUK Commentary Says KDP Rejects Direct Dialogue *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 37
SAIRI Continuing Anti-Saddam Struggle From Tehran *[KUNA]* 38

ISRAEL

- Minister Sees Return of ‘Almost All’ of Golan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
- Weizman Says al-Asad Must Hold Direct Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
- Optimism Over Change in Syrian Tone Questioned *[HA’ARETZ 11 Jun]* 40
- Netanyahu on Golan, Agreement With Palestinians *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 13 Jun]* 41
- ‘Official’ on French ‘Role’ in Peace Process *[AFP]* 42
- Peres Discusses Mauritania, EU Trade Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
- Jordanian Chamber of Commerce Delegation Visits *[Amman Radio]* 43
- Jordan Politicians Say Opposition ‘Loud,’‘Few’ *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
- No Opposition to Indian Representation in Autonomy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
- Jerusalem Mayor, Opposition on PA Decision on Council *[HA’ARETZ 13 Jun]* 44
- IDF To Quit West Bank Training Camps *[MA’ARIV 11 Jun]* 44
- IDF Position on Golan Seen as ‘Most Important’ *[YEDI’OT AHARONOT 13 Jun]* 45

JORDAN

- King Husayn Reviews Domestic, Regional Issues *[Amman TV]* 46
- U.S. DAO Said To Advise Country To Buy Israeli Arms *[AL-SABIL 19 Jun]* 53
- Islamic, Popular Unity Party Members Arrested *[AL-MAJD 12 Jun]* 53
- Islamist Effort To Block House Session Agenda Fails *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Jun]* 54
- Minister: Economic Summit Success Linked to Peace *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Jun]* 54
- Prince, Prime Minister Meet Iranian Minister *[Amman TV]* 55
  - Top Officials Discuss Trade *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Jun]* 55

LEBANON

- Buwayz: Talks With Israel ‘Might Resume in 2 Months’ *[Beirut Radio]* 57
- Buwayz Views Invitation to Multilateral Talks *[VOL]* 57
- Goals of ‘Terrorist’ Training Camp Explained *[Madrid EL PAIS 31 May]* 57
- Fadlallah on ‘Backwardness’ of ’Ashura Customs *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 58
- Al-Tufayli, al-Musawi on ’Ashura Ceremonies *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 58
- Casualties Reported in ‘Clash’ at Palestinian Camp *[VOL]* 59
  - Fighting Erupts Anew 13 Jun *[VOL]* 59
  - Camp Leader Says Clashes To Go On *[AFP]* 59
  - 10 Reportedly Killed in Camp Fighting *[VOL]* 59

SYRIA

- Radio Views ‘Optimism’ Following Christopher Tour *[Damascus Radio]* 61
- Progress in Washington Talks ‘Depends on Israel’ *[Damascus Radio]* 61
- ‘Sincere’ Israeli Intentions Toward Talks Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 62
- Progressive Front Welcomes Peace ‘Understanding’ *[Damascus TV]* 63
- Damascus TV Discusses Arab Solidarity, Peace Stand 63

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Rabbani Views Peace Efforts, Foreign Assistance *[Kabul Radio]* 65
- CIS Official, Delegation Pay Visit to Kabul 65
  - Greeted at Airport *[Kabul Radio]* 65
  - Cited on ‘Black Spots’ in Past Ties *[Kabul Radio]* 65
  - Convey ‘Readiness’ To Open Embassy *[Kabul Radio]* 65
- Uzbekistan Condemned for Forging Bank Notes *[Kabul Radio]* 66
- Opposition Forces Continue Advance on Konduz City *[Message of Freedom]* 66
- Government Reportedly Capture Dostam Troops *[IRNA]* 66

India

Rao Addresses National Issues, Pakistan, France *[Paris LE FIGARO 12 Jun]* 66
Commentary Previews Rao's Visit to France *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Rao Departs for France on State Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 70
Minister Concerned About Pakistan's Arms Stockpile *[Delhi Radio]* 71

Iran

Editorial: U.S. Planning 'Propaganda Attack' *[IRNA]* 71
Ukrainian Envoy: Continued Ties Despite U.S. Ban *[IRNA]* 71
Azeri Parliament Official, Delegation Pay Visit 72
    Aliyev Conveys Message From President *[IRNA]* 72
    Electoral Advice Sought *[Tehran TV]* 72
    Ties, Oil Consortium Discussed *[Tehran TV]* 73
Paper Criticizes Baku's Exploitation of Caspian *[IRNA]* 73
Russian Minister Pays Official Visit to Tehran 73
    Cites Resistance to U.S. Pressure *[IRNA]* 73
    Meets With Nateq-Nuri *[Tehran TV]* 74
    Stresses Interest in Cooperation *[Tehran TV]* 74
Rafsanjani Voices 'Satisfaction' With Rome Ties *[IRNA]* 74
More Iraqi Refugees Arrive in Southwest Province *[IRNA]* 75
Editorial Urges Normalized Relations With Iraq *[IRNA]* 75
Official Views Removal of UAE 'Misunderstanding' *[IRNA]* 75
    Radio Views 'Misunderstandings' *[Tehran Radio]* 76
Rafsanjani Inspects Academy of Sciences *[IRNA]* 76
Rafsanjani Inaugurates Major Laboratory Project *[IRNA]* 76
New Conditions for Livestock Exports Viewed *[RESALAT 26 Apr]* 77
Governor General Views Mashhad's Economic Status *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Apr]* 77
Supply of Couponed Products Announced *[RESALAT 30 Apr]* 77
Billions To Be Spent on Country's Airports *[SALAM 2 May]* 79
Dollar's Open-Market Rate Reaches 5,050 Rials *[RESALAT 3 May]* 79
Three Percent of Eggs Produced Exported *[RESALAT 8 May]* 79

Nepal

King Dissolves Parliament, Calls For Elections 80
    Prime Minister Recommends Dissolution *[Delhi Radio]* 80
    Opposition Parties Submit Memorandum to King *[Delhi Radio]* 80
    Communique Issued; Parliament Dissolved *[Delhi Radio]* 81

Pakistan

Turkey's Ciller Writes to Bhutto on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
Indian Strength in Kashmir Evokes 'Grave Concern' *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
National Assembly Adopts Resolution on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
    Assembly Proceedings Reported *[Islamabad TV]* 82
Official Dismisses Rumors of Karachi 'Lawlessness' *[Islamabad Radio]* 83
Spokesman Rejects Proposed Karachi Operation *[Islamabad Radio]* 83
Nawaz Claims Bhutto 'Part of Karachi Problem' *[THE MUSLIM 13 Jun]* 83

Sri Lanka

President Pledges To Safeguard 'Unitary Status' *[Colombo International]* 84
Minister Discusses Steps for National Defense Fund *[Colombo International]* 84
Government Extends State of Emergency to Airport *[Delhi Radio]* 84
    Vote on Extension Reported *[Colombo International]* 84
'Sources' Report Rebels Killing Informants *[AFP]* 84
'Powerful Bomb' Explodes Outside Army Headquarters *[AFP]* 85
Rebels Kill 16 Soldiers in 'Heavy Mortar Attack' *[AFP]* 85
    Death Toll Mounts to 18 *[AFP]* 85

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 May

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[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writers Lash Out at Penal Code Amendments
2. Muslim Brotherhood Figure Cautions Against 'False' Peace
3. Labor Party Secretary General Interviewed
4. Scholar Defends Islamic Penalties

WRITERS LASH OUT AT PENAL CODE AMENDMENTS

A large portion of AL-SHA'B's 30 May edition is dedicated to reactions to the recent amendments on the penal code, which tighten the punishment for libel and false news publication.

An unattributed 2,000-word report on the first page remarks that "President Mubarak endorsed a law that slaughters the freedom of the press...and refused to respond to the journalists' appeal, which Jalal 'Isa, deputy chairman of the Press Association, conveyed during celebrations to mark the day of the media."

The report notes that AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri and AL-AHALI Chief Editor 'Abd-al-'Al al-Baquri remarked during President Mubarak's dialogue with the men of the media that the texts of the laws that will apply to journalists are "loose" and that the "abrogation" of Article 67 of the Press Association law, which prohibits journalists' remand in custody, "undermines journalists' safety." AL-AHALI chief editor demanded "intervention to protect the pens and the press."

The report adds that party leaders and chief editors of opposition papers held a meeting on 28 May "to declare their categorical and absolute rejection of the suspicious law of the press, which seeks to persecute journalists and bury alive the freedom of the press."

At that meeting, it was decided to issue a statement outlining the opposition party's position, to suspend the publication of opposition papers for one day in protest, and to hold an international news conference on 1 June to voice protest.

Noting that MP Muhammad Juwayli, "the deputy who was behind the laws that destroyed the trade unions," was behind the new amendments, the report says that the government "amended the Press Association law without consulting those concerned." It also notes the "abrogation" of Article 67 of the Press Association law, which "protected journalists against remand and stipulated that the Press Council should be notified of any charges leveled at a journalist in a case concerning his profession."

An unattributed 50-word report on page 1 cites "independent parliament members, primarily Fikri al-Jazzar," as saying that the amendments were introduced "to protect the son of the senior official increasingly implicated in rumors." Al-Jazzar thinks that the law was issued probably "to settle accounts with major writers, like Hilmi Murad."

The first page features the "text of a statement issued by the leaders of political parties on the assassination of the freedom of the press."

An unattributed 600-word report on pages 1 and 8 says that the Press Association Council discussed the penal code amendments and "reiterated its rejection of issuing any legislations involving the press without consulting journalists and taking their advice."

The report adds that the council said in a statement that "the new law seeks to restrain the freedom of the press, diminish the available democratic margin, restrict journalists activities, and bring journalists to account for crimes that are not punishable by the law." The statement adds that the law included "loose expressions that can violate the freedom of any journalist and undermine citizens' freedom under ambiguous and unjustified claims."

In a 4,000-word report on page 2, 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il, Muhammad Hilal, Mu'tazz al-Hadidi, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid poll journalists views on the law amendments.

Newspaper writer Muhammad al-Haywan says that the law "violates the Press Association law." He believes that the Press Council "should resign or, at least, file a lawsuit against this law at the Constitutional Court because it is unacceptable to keep silent."

Former Chief of the Press Association Kamil Zuhayri describes the law as "unconstitutional," adding that it includes "loose, ambiguous, and unspecific phrases." He believes the law is "stillborn."

Sana' Fathallah, a writer in AL-AKHBAR, describes the law as "ridiculous," adding that "it was especially designed to protect corruption." She demands a trial for those who proposed and approved it.

Muhammad al-Sayyid al-Sa'id, deputy director of the AL-AHRAM Center for Political and Strategic Studies, says that the law is "a brutal end for the democratic experience in Egypt and marks the proclamation of a police state that wipes out all signs of civilization."

Dr. Hasan Rajab, a writer in AL-AKHBAR, says that the law is "null, null, null," adding that it will provide "immunity" against criticism for all the corrupt.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, deputy chief of the Press Association and a columnist in AL-SHA'B, remarks that the law is "a full regression from democracy." He adds that such laws "are a sign of despotism." He is certain that the "coming elections will be falsified" judging by such amendments. "Whoever issues such legislations cannot hold free elections," he says.

Majdi Muhanna, the Press Association purser, says the law "unmasks the government's plan to issue all the laws that restrict the freedom of the press and diminish journalists' guarantees."

Yahya Qallash, assistant secretary general of the Press Association, thinks that the law proves that "there is no hope of change or of conducting a democratic dialogue." He believes that these amendments "increase terrorist and violent acts, making them the only way available to those who want to express their views or seek change."

Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, assistant purser of the Press Association, thinks that the law "is a new link in the chain of restrictions imposed on freedoms in Egypt."

Hasan al-Rashidi, member of the Press Council and writer in AL-JUMHURIYAH, notes the risk the amendment poses to the press profession. He rejects any amendment involving the press without consulting the association.

Raja' al-Mirghani, a member of the Press Council, says the amendments constitute "a grave threat for the freedom of the press in Egypt and the reporter's right to perform one of his duties: to criticize and to access and circulate information."

AL-'ARABI Editing Director Jamal Salim says that the law seeks to "stifle public opinion."

AL-WAFD Chief Editor 'Abbas al-Tarabili says the law was issued "to terrorize the press and turn it back into a tamed press."

Newspaper Writer Salah 'Isa says the way the law was issued "exposes the democracy the regime claims to apply and questions the credibility of the laws." He calls on journalists and political parties "to stand up to this conspiracy" and calls on opposition papers to suspend publication for one day to protest this law.

Newspaper writer Safinaz Kazim believes that the new amendments are "just another version of the emergency law, which was a sign of disgrace for the government and a knife on the neck of all journalists and citizens."

Newspaper Writer Faridah al-Naqqash believes that the law is "an encroachment on the Constitution on the part of the People's Assembly."

Finally, Hazim Ghurab, member of the board of the Foreign Correspondents Society, says the law was issued "to serve the authority and cut the tongue of the press."

Majdi Ahmad Husayn, in his 2,500-word article on page 3, pours out his wrath on the regime because of the "Zionist-inspired amendment" that "buries alive the freedom of the press, the only remaining sign of the democratic margin." He says that the "government deputies want to steal the freedom of the nation and cut its tongue." He swears, however, that "this will never be."

"We will not retreat before this threat and will not fall back before corruption, even if our lives are threatened," he says. He adds: "God willing, we will continue to fight corruption...to the last drop of blood in us."

Still addressing "the regime," Husayn says "you want to stay in power forever...you are our major calamity. This nation will never see anything good so long as you are ruling it.... You are the disgrace we should wash off. Your continued presence in the authority is the biggest insult for this nation and the major sign of its failing."

Swearing that the rulers "will go" eventually, Husayn says that "the head of the octopus is the major cause of the ailment." He says that the people are capable of imposing their will in the coming elections despite "the falsification conspiracies."

Husayn uses other expressions to describe the regime, or "the new ebola," whose continued presence is "the biggest evil for the national economy."

He concludes that the battle between good and evil will continue until triumph comes with the will of God.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURE CAUTIONS AGAINST 'FALSE' PEACE

A 1,500-word article by Muslim Brotherhood Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur, page 5, criticizes the recent U.S. veto "that tore open the false veil they call peace and clearly showed that the goal of the Zionist enemy and America is to exercise full control on all Palestine, including Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque." He hopes Arab and Muslim states will realize that this peace "is just a mirage" and stop running after it.

Mashhur says that the veto "discredited" international institutions, which were "founded to legitimize the crimes major states commit against weaker ones."

He cautions American officials that their support for the "Zionist enemy" will not be in their interest in the future because it "antagonizes Arab and Muslim people."

He promises that "the cancerous growth" that was planted in the heart of the Islamic nation to destroy it "will be the major cause for uniting Muslims' views and closing their ranks in the face of their enemies."

Mashhur advises Arab and Muslim people and leaders not to believe the Zionist claim to seek peace, since "what was taken by force can only be regained by force." He calls on them to use their power wisely, support the Islamic resistance in Palestine and the entire Muslim world, refuse capitulation, face up to reality, and unite their ranks in "an Arab Islamic body" instead of relying on the United Nations.

LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL INTERVIEWED

Page six features a 3,000-word interview with Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus.

Husayn replies to a question on what distinguishes the Labor Party from other parties. He says: "We are an Islamic party. We voice the nation's aspiration to establish a clean regime based on an authentic and comprehensive Islamic civilization that achieves freedom, development, social solidarity, and justice."

Asked about his accomplishments, Husayn explains that his mission was to turn public support for the party into "a clear and organized being to be able to stir the masses whenever we see this as suitable and hence act as an effective pressure group the rulers take into account before they adopt decisions."

Husayn is asked about Sudan's al-Turabi's influence on him. He remarks that what is going on in Sudan is "the most magnificent sign of a contemporary Islamic awakening." Admitting that what applies to Sudan might not apply to Egypt, he notes that he is "influenced by al-Turabi's approach of renovating and thinking."

Asked whether he represents "the hawks" in the Labor Party, he replies that the party certainly represents "hawks" in the opposition. He adds: "We oppose the government in all the issues, starting with its position on being religious and on culture and education, through its despotic rule and its economic and political policy that spreads poverty, unemployment, and corruption." He adds that the party opposes the government's regional and international policy, which "sides with America and Israel."

Responding to the accusation that he expels every member who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood, Husayn explains that the party seeks to recruit "religious young people," but that it objects to a member who is already a member of "another group." He adds that both the party and the Muslim Brotherhood believe that "Islam is the solution."

SCHOLAR DEFENDS ISLAMIC PENALTIES

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali's 300-word column, page 12, expresses anger at the attack against Islam "in the name of the Human Rights Charter."

Al-Ghazali notes that several writers in the West accuse the criminal code in Islam of "severity and brutality," although the same principles it applies are observed in the holy books.

Noting the growing crime rate in the West, he says that Islam "never killed a hungry man looking for food." In contrast, he says that the obstruction of heavenly penalties in the West "filled villages and cities with crimes against honor, lives, and money" under the excuse of "defending human rights."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Adviser: Gap Still 'Wide' With Israel

JN1206204195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jun 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by radio correspondent Yusuf al-Qazzaz on 12 June; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Dear listeners, there are several questions on the short visit to Egypt made by President Yasir 'Arafat, his meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak, and also on the arrival of President 'Arafat and his meetings with some Western officials in Jericho, and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir Arafat, is with us. Brother Nabil, how do you evaluate President 'Arafat's visit to Egypt?

[Abu-Rudaynah] It was part of the continuous Palestinian- Egyptian consultations at the summit level. As you know Brother Yusuf, more than one visit was made this month. There is continuous Palestinian-Egyptian coordination and consultation, mainly on how to ensure Israel's commitment to the implementation of the agreements it signed with the PLO. The talks today evaluated Mr. Christopher's tour in the region and the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and contacts. President Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] briefed his brother President Mubarak on the details of Christopher's meetings and the latest offers made to us by the Israelis during the negotiations.

[Al-Qazzaz] Brother Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, concerning the negotiations, are there Israeli attempts to show that there are separate agreements or negotiations separate from the central negotiations that are usually held in Cairo?

[Abu-Rudaynah] There are contacts and negotiations in Cairo at the level of the elections committee, the economic committee, or the redeployment committee. There are contacts, and ideas are presented, and there are Palestinian papers. There are also Israeli answers. It is beneficial to know, Brother Yusuf, that the gap is still wide and there isn't any real progress thus far concerning redeployment and timing of the elections and assuming powers. There are continuous negotiations; there are U.S. and Egyptian efforts to make Israel abide by the 1 July deadline; there are conflicting Israeli statements. However, as for the negotiations, there are declared and undeclared meetings, but they are all directed toward holding the elections, the withdrawal, and redeployment from the West Bank. The gap is still wide, there is more than one concept— there is a Palestinian concept for redeployment and withdrawal, and there is an Israeli concept that takes into consideration Israeli security issues. The negotiations are going on, and the gap is still wide. This interprets the continuous U.S. efforts represented by Christopher's visit, and the visit of Dennis Ross to Jericho two days before that, the President Abu-'Ammar and President Mubarak meetings, and the continuous Palestinian-Egyptian contact on this subject. As I told you, there are continuous meetings, contacts, and negotiations. Thus far, no agreement was made on several issues, but there are many efforts being made in order to achieve results before 1 July, but the gap is still wide, and no final agreement was reached on any substantial issue.

[Al-Qazzaz] Thank you Brother Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Thank you Brother Yusuf.

'Arafat Wants Janin District in Janin First Plan

TA1006130795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation from the Janin area held a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho concerning the implementation of the Janin First plan.

'Arafat told the delegation members that he does not accept Israel's intention to withdraw only from the city and the adjacent refugee camp. He demanded that Israel hand over to the Palestinians the entire Janin District in the framework of the redeployment, this on the basis of a detailed timetable for the withdrawal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from all other Arab towns in the West Bank.

'Arafat promised to provide the Janin residents with aid for rehabilitating the infrastructure in the region. This was reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem.

'Arafat: Hamas Received Blank Israeli Documents

TA1206113095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
12 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by On Levi and Efrayim Davidi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hundreds of blank Israeli identity cards and birth certificates, stolen from the Interior Ministry in Ramla, have found their way to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in the Gaza Strip. Some of the documents were seized by Palestinian special security investigators.

The Palestinian Authority's [PA] General Prosecutor Khalid al-Qidrah informed Israeli security elements and the Prime Minister's Office of the seizure. 'Arafat charged that the papers had been given to Hamas by Israeli army elements. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman had one word in reaction: rubbish.

Israeli security elements praised the PA's action and the transfer of information on the recapture of some of the missing papers. They said the theft of papers from the Ramla Interior Ministry office was liable to create a problem of identifying hostile elements when they sought to enter the Green Line boundaries.

Israel rejects 'Arafat's allegation that military elements gave the papers to Hamas in order to undermine the Fatah rule. Last night the IDF spokesman issued a reaction: Official army elements have never given documents to Hamas, and if an investigation reveals the involvement of military personnel, it will be regarded as a criminal act.

In a conference with a Histadrut Labor Federation delegation, 'Arafat said: "Some IDF elements aid Hamas and other extreme organizations, in order to torpedo the peace process with Israel."

Late at night between 10 and 11 June, 'Arafat met in Jericho with the heads of the "joint Jewish-Arab list" in the Histadrut, including leader Binyamin Gonen. [passage omitted]

The conference, which was held at 'Arafat's request, addressed Palestinian workers' problems and the relationship between the Israeli Government and the PLO.

'Arafat showed his Israeli visitors a number of documents, including blank Israeli identity cards and birth certificates. He said the documents had been seized by the Palestinian Police during a raid on Hamas caches in the Gaza Strip.

Referring to the impending 1 July deadline, on which the negotiations on the implementation of the second stage of the peace agreement are supposed to end, 'Arafat leveled harsh criticism at the Israeli Government and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. "Rabin's reluctance to adhere to the timetable agreed on by the two sides is grave," 'Arafat said, adding that he will not take over isolated West Bank areas.

Shahir Sa'd, head of one of the Palestinian trade unions, criticized the Histadrut for shirking its part of the agreement with the Palestinian unions. He stressed, however, that he supports the agreement and hopes all its clauses will be implemented. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni: PA To Reestablish E. Jerusalem Council

TA1206183195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jun 95

[Yoram Bin-Nur video report — Faysal al-Husayni's remarks in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles; translated from the Hebrew]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Many East Jerusalem Arabs are besieging the Interior Ministry demanding Israeli ID's. The East Jerusalem residents believe that they will thereby assure their status in the town although the Palestinian Authority plans to reestablish the East Jerusalem council, which operated up to the Six-Day War. Our correspondent Yoram Bin-Nur reports:

[Begin recording] [Bin-Nur] We are at the entrance to the Interior Ministry's branch serving East Jerusalem residents. Soon, there will be a national census in Israel and in East Jerusalem. Experienced residents of the eastern part of the town fear that those who do not have an Israeli ID during the census will lose their right to residence in Jerusalem. That is why they are besieging the ministry. In order to cut down the bureaucracy, the ministry is paying people to type the requests, a function which has not existed here since Ottoman times. Due to the large number of requests, Interior Ministry officials have been forced to add barbed wire fences and bolster the guard force. [passage omitted]

Many East Jerusalem residents believe that the bureaucracy in the Interior Ministry office is part of Israel's intention of keeping the number of Arab residents down as much as possible. [passage omitted]

While East Jerusalem Arabs want Israeli ID's, the Palestinians announced the reestablishment of the East Jerusalem municipality, which was dispersed immediately after the Six-Day War.

[Al-Husayni] There is a decision to convene an elected city council that already exists and has already acted for the Palestinian people and Palestinian society in general.

[Bin-Nur] For many East Jerusalem residents Orient House is the address to resolve their problems. People whose homes have been threatened with demolition by the municipality were there today. If the Arab municipality starts operating in the eastern part of town, many of the residents who feel discriminated against by the Israeli municipality will appeal to it. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Settlers, Islamic Jihad Leader's Wife

TA1306102195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni held a meeting at the Orient House today with the foreign consuls operating in East Jerusalem and protested against the activities carried out by settlers this morning in the Barqan area.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the meeting was also attended by Fathiya al-Shaqaqi, the wife of the leader of the Islamic Jihad who resides in Damascus. Al-Husayni asked the foreign consuls to try to persuade the Israeli authorities to permit the woman to remain in Jerusalem despite the courts' decision to approve her expulsion.

Al-Rujub Seen Threatened by New Arrivals

TA0906164595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 9 Jun 95 pp 14, 15

[Article by Nadav Ha'etzni: "To Get Rid of Jibril al-Rujub"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last Friday night [2 June] 'Arafat summoned several senior members of his intelligence services and made a brief announcement. When he was done, the atmosphere became so tense that you could cut the air with a knife. He informed them that three senior PLO members currently living in Jordan would soon be arriving in the territories and placed at the head of the Palestinian Authority's main security apparatuses.

The three are Abu-al-Za'im, a.k.a. General 'Atallah 'Atallah; Abu-al-Tayyib, a.k.a. Mahmud al-Natur, the commander of Force 17 in its heyday; and 'Abbas Zaki, a member of the PLO Central Committee. Abu-al-Za'im has for a few months been slated to head all the Palestinian security apparatuses in Judaea and Samaria.

Abu-al-Tayyib is scheduled to restore Force 17 to the days when it was a strong military army at 'Arafat's personal disposal, while Zaki is supposed to take over Fatah's divided organization and restore order.

The news about Abu-al-Za'im's return did not come as a surprise, seeing that 'Arafat had informed him of his return and agreed with him on his new job when they met in Amman last January. Since then rumors have been breaking out occasionally about Abu-al-Za'im's imminent arrival, but he remained in the Jordanian capital. This time there are signs that it will happen. For a few months Abu-al- Za'im's son Majid has been staying in Bayt Surik, his home village near Kibbutz Ma'ale Hahamisha, receiving delegations of supporters from all over the territories. Last Sunday he even received an official delegation from Gaza on a mission on behalf of the chairman. It included several senior officers, headed by Brigadier General Zakariya Ba'lushah, the deputy chief of the Palestinian intelligence service. According to Abu-al-Za'im's confidants, the officers did not come all the way to Bayt Surik to sip coffee but to talk business: the location of offices, organizational arrangements, and all that is needed to entrench the general's rule in the field. Incidentally, the confidants mention the first week of July as the scheduled arrival date.

The news about Abu-al-Tayyib's and Zaki's return came as a big surprise. Although the two have for some time been trying to enter the territories, many were bewildered by the announcement about their arrival and integration into the top leadership, owing to the fact that if the personal changes planned by the PLO leader are effected, major mayhem is expected to ensue in the territories. This would be primarily led by the good old Jibril al-Rujub, seeing that the integration of the three into the top positions would spell his ouster.

For some time rumors about al-Rujub's expected dismissal have been whispered to confidants and journalists. 'Arafat himself has mentioned the subject to Palestinian and Israeli confidants. The chairman has not concealed his displeasure with al-Rujub's performance, and some of his associates claim that the chairman has made up his mind to remove al-Rujub from Jericho, assign him to Jerusalem, and deprive him of all authority to act outside the city. Eyewitnesses illustrate the PLO leader's attitude with a story about what happened last Tuesday: During his visit to Jericho, 'Arafat kept his distance from the head of the "preventive security" apparatus and did not invite him to participate in the internal meetings held in the city.

All these reports should be taken with a grain of salt. The PLO leader's career is strewn with unexecuted appointments, job duplicities, unfulfilled promises to associates, and rumors spread in order to manipulate his subordinates as he pleases. Before we see the three taking their new seats, getting rid of al-Rujub, and imposing new order, all these developments should be regarded with some caution. However, if what is promised comes true, we are in for a particularly hot summer. [passage omitted]

Since the word was first out about plans to appoint Abu-al-Za'im as head of the security apparatuses in Judaea and Samaria a few months ago, he and al-Rujub have been conducting a tough dialogue, particularly through the Arab media. What did al-Rujub not say about Abu-al-Za'im: that he is a good-for- nothing bum and a low life, that he belongs in the trash can of history, that he is a Jordanian agent. Interviewed for this article, al-Rujub said: "I do not recognize Abu-al-Za'im; as far as I am concerned he does not exist." He even rejected the information about Abu-al-Za'im's imminent arrival, saying: "I will bet you he will not come here; there is no decision to bring him, and there is no decision to unseat me. All that talk is nonsense. Let us wait until the beginning of July and see. In the meantime, I am doing my job, and that is it."

Al-Rujub's tough language proves that he and at least some of his supporters will not easily yield their positions of power. Also, it is clear to them that the fight against Abu-al-Za'im is a matter of life or death, because the very fact of the agreement between 'Arafat and Abu-al-Za'im is a manifestation of lack of confidence in them. They, the young generation who grew up in the territories in the past 20 years and assumed a great deal of authority a year ago, could finally be shoved aside by the PLO's ancient dinosaurs.

Contrary to al-Rujub, who is regarded as a gang leader and behaves no better than one, Abu-al-Za'im is considered a sophisticated politician and a professional military man. With his analytical powers and his contacts in the Arab world, he stands out from the lot among the old-time Palestinian leadership.

However, these qualities will not suffice for him to fight al-Rujub and his colleagues, who are well entrenched in the area. Only one fact will help him: In his year in power al-Rujub has collected a vast number of enemies, particularly in Judaea and Samaria, who have been suffering at his hands. These include quite a few Fatah and intifadah activists, who are today prepared to forgive Abu-al- Za'im for his "betrayal," if he indeed succeeds to put an end to the bloody internal rivalries and the rule of "the tyrant from Jericho."

Abu-al-Za'im's supporters are getting ready for his arrival, but are not yet establishing their own independent militias. They plan to take over the current forces with the backing of the chairman. The numerous phone calls that Abu-al-Za'im gets in his home in Amman, including many from senior officers, encourage him.

Whether they will succeed is a tough question. Some think that 'Arafat himself will not be sorry if they fail. That way he would be able to plead his innocence before the Egyptians and Saudis, to the effect that he gave their protege a chance. If Abu-al-Za'im, Abu-al-Tayyib, and Zaki succeed, 'Arafat will use their triumph to restore his image in the eyes of the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria, which was seriously tarnished this past year, to a large degree because of al-Rujub.

Abu-al-Za'im's success and al-Rujub's failure will represent a devastating failure for some senior officials on the Israeli side, first and foremost for Amnon Shahaq, the current chief of staff, and for Ya'aqov Peri, the former head of the Shin Bet. Al-Rujub is their protege and their biggest gamble. He is also the protege of the entire Shin Bet, which more than anybody else helped him solidify his position. It is doubtful that any of these elements will do anything to sabotage Abu-al-Za'im's arrival and success, but they will most probably join the ranks of those gloating at his misery in the event of his failure.

Hamas Denies 'Settlement' With Jordan Over Expulsion

MM0906111595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Ibrahim Ghawshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT: My Resumption of Hamas Spokesmanship in Jordan Has Nothing To Do With Abu-Marzuq's and al-'Alami's Expulsion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, has denied that his resumption of his duties as a spokesman for the movement in the Jordanian capital is a kind of settlement between the Jordanian Government and Hamas following the expulsion from Jordanian territory early this month of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the movement's Political Bureau, and Engineer 'Imad al-'Alami, member of the bureau. Ghawshah stressed that that is baseless, because Hamas is still very pained by the expulsion of brothers Abu-Marzuq and al-'Alami. And it continues to urge wise decisionmakers in Jordan to reconsider the matter and to give the movement the opportunity to put its symbols on the Jordanian scene in order to express the movement's political and informational positions in line with the democratic atmosphere in Jordan and along the lines of other political forces on the scene, which are expressing themselves politically and informationally.

Hamas' spokesman added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that high-ranking official sources in Jordan stressed that Hamas has shown complete discipline over the past period and that it has not harmed the popular or official position. He pointed out that the expulsion decision was taken as a result of foreign pressures, describing this as a violation of the sovereignty and independence of Jordanian decisionmaking. He urged that it should be revoked. In the same context he pointed out that he as Hamas' official spokesman has for more than five years not ceased to explain his movement's position, and that he is continuing to do so. Explaining why he did not perform his duties for some time recently, Ghawshah said that sometimes the spokesman's activities conflict with his engagements and the circumstances surrounding the movement, and also because of Zionist and U.S. pressures on Hamas in a bid to check and silence it. Ghawshah commented on reports that Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, head of the Palestinian delegation to the military negotiations with Israel, had met with 'Imad al-'Alami and asked him to suspend Hamas' armed activities but al-'Alami refused. Based on that, 'Arafat said that Hamas' operations are directed from abroad.

Ghawshah said that this issue is multifaceted and can be clarified soon, and all its nuances can be revealed. However, the campaign against Hamas is not launched by Yasir 'Arafat, but, rather, by the Zionist leadership, represented in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Ghawshah recalled the news conference held by Rabin on 13 April 1994 following the Hadera operation, in which he accused Jordan of overlooking the presence of Hamas leaders in Jordan, making clear threats. The issue involves profound nuances. This is one thing. The other is that Hamas is an integrated and harmonious movement. It is a deep-rooted and widespread movement. Its principal organization is in the occupied territories. He said that the issue of the so-called inside and outside [the occupied territories] is a losing issue when the Palestinian Authority tries to bank on it, because as far as the movement is concerned, the main ideological and political issues are settled. And the Palestinian Authority cannot infiltrate the movement as it has done with numerous Palestinian factions in the past and as it is going to do in the future.

Islamic Party Draft Founding Document

MM0906132495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
9 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Towards Formation of a Palestinian Islamic Party That Would Satisfy National Authority and Hamas Masses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy of the draft founding statement of the proposed Palestinian Islamic Party behind which, Hamas claims, President Yasir 'Arafat stands. The statement is drafted in such a way as to satisfy the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] as well as the Hamas masses as much as possible, but it does not in any way reveal the political affiliation of its authors, which it only describes as "a group of Islamic intellectuals who believe in Islam's suitability for every time and place." It is clear in more than one place that the authors of the statement recognize the current PNA in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The statement borrows some of Hamas' vocabulary but links it to the new reality represented by the Palestinian Authority [PA]. It says: "We believe in the sanctity of the entire land of Palestine from Ra's al-Naqurah in the north to Umm-al-Rashrash in the south and from the Dead Sea and the River Jordan in the east to the Mediterranean in the west. While believing that the Palestinian Muslim people are its sole real owner and the heir to the custody of the holy places and temples of the three divine religions, we find ourselves compelled to view rationally this new reality imposed on us by the haughty world powers and the plot against the Palestinian Arab people, and in so doing overlook every unrealistic call chasing mirages and illusions."

The [party] plan is sponsored by an unnamed "group of Islamic intellectuals." It says: "We are a national Islamic party which follows the path of Islam in building up the beliefs of individuals, groups, and the state." The statement expresses reservations about the Oslo and Cairo agreements but also says: "We regard them as a truce between us and the enemies, signed by brothers, and we are committed to respect them so long as the circumstances dictate this and the PNA wishes it." The statement says that "there is a realistic possibility of coexistence between the opposition and the Authority with a view to developing the reality resulting from truce in the direction of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

It maintains that "this truce cannot survive or continue unless all the settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are dismantled," and that "Jerusalem is the historical and eternal capital of the Palestinian state and cannot be given up in any negotiations."

It calls on all Palestinian forces to respect the law and uphold democracy. It condemns ideological terrorism and rejects the use of violent methods to change the authority or the law because that "would lead to rampant sedition that would destroy everything. Sedition should remain dormant, and a curse upon whoever awakens it."

After presenting democracy as the best form of government and upholding the principle of rotation of power through elections, the statement underlines the party's interest in the social aspect, human rights, independence of the judiciary, and the guaranteeing of public freedoms such as the freedom of the press and of the unions and associations. It points out that "legitimate national opposition is that which stems from inside the homeland for [as the saying goes] the people of Mecca know Mecca best."

The statement, which was distributed on a small scale, does not mention the issue of "jihad" and armed action against Israel, which is considered to be the most sensitive issue among Palestinians.

Hamas had accused President 'Arafat of being behind the party plan and said that he was exploiting an internal debate between the Hamas leaderships on the question of forming a public political party in the autonomy areas. That debate has not been resolved yet. The views within Hamas currently vary, from dealing with the fait accompli represented by the PNA, participating in the elections, and forming a political party while preserving Hamas' military power — which its leaders describe as "a strategic option and a legitimate right which cannot be forfeited" — to complete rejection of dealing with the Authority and its fait accompli on the basis of the position of refusal to recognize the legitimacy of the Oslo and Cairo agreements and what stemmed from them.

Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official in the autonomy authority who wished to remain anonymous has stated that over the past two months, President 'Arafat met regularly in his office with a number of Islamic figures from the Gaza Strip in the presence of some Authority officials including Amin al-Hindi, the Gaza Strip's chief of intelligence, and Major General Nasr Yusuf, commissioner general of security. The discussions were about Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat's] interest in the formation, with his support, of an Islamic political party that would represent the Islamic opposition.

Al-Zahhar: Party Would Not Be Substitute for Hamas

MM0906152895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Al-Zahhar Tells AL-HAYAH: Formation of Hamas Political Party Is Possible But as an Arm Not a Substitute"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A leading figure in the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in the Gaza Strip has denied that Hamas intends to become a political party. In a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH from Gaza yesterday morning, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar said that the Movement's leaders did not receive any messages from Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [Hamas founder] on the matter and that the detained shaykh made no statements recently except the translation published by the Jerusalem paper AL-QUDS a few days ago of an interview with the Hebrew paper MA'ARIV, and "it did not at all include any message to the Movement's leaders calling on them to stop military action or transform the Movement into a political party."

On the current deliberations within Hamas on the question of forming a political party, al-Zahhar emphasized that "Hamas is a large movement constituting half the society with its own various social and educational institutions. A movement of that size cannot be expected to stop discussions on any issue of interest to the Palestinian people. The Movement's position on the question of forming a political party has not changed. It is not unlikely that Hamas would form a political party but it would not be a substitute for it but rather a political institution alongside its other various institutions, to take care of the political aspect in the autonomy areas."

Al-Zahhar, however, said that that would depend on the promulgation of a law regulating formation of political parties, "issued as a joint draft in the preparation and approval of which all Palestinian forces and factions without exception would participate." Al-Zahhar confirmed that Hamas has indeed begun consultations with such factions as the Islamic Jihad Movement on various issues of interest to the Palestinian people at this stage including the question of political party law. He stressed that if such a law existed "the party that Hamas would form would be one of its arms, but not at all a substitute for it."

On the question of military action, al-Zahhar emphasized that Hamas' line before and after the advent of the autonomy authority has not changed, "which is that wherever there is occupation there will be military action and resistance. The blessed intifadah in the Gaza Strip was against the Israeli occupation. It stopped when that occupation ended, but it continued in the West Bank and other parts of Palestine under occupation. Nothing has happened to make Hamas reconsider that strategic line."

He added that "No Mulsim can jeopardize the eternal duty of jihad." But he spoke of "rationaliztion of jihad" stressing that "the rationalization decision is up to the Hamas leadership. No Muslim can block or annul God's Shari'ah."

On reports about the imminent announcement of an Islamic political party in the Gaza Strip under the leadership of former Hamas member Khadr Muhjiz, al-Zahhar said: "That man says that he wants to form a separate political party with some of his friends. Surely, such a party would never succeed and such a party would be rejected by Hamas." Asked if such a party would get political and material support from Yasir 'Arafat, head of the autonomy authority, al-Zahhar said: "There are elements which substantiate such claims in reality. Khadr Muhjiz had previously tried to form his own vice squad within the autonomy authority and had a promise to that effect from that authority but that promise was not kept and his efforts failed. All those who in the past tried to leave the movement reaped the same failure."

Al-Zahhar accused the National Authority of trying to cause some confusion about Hamas. He said that "some circles want to tell Israel: Rest assured, the guns have been silenced."

PA, Hamas Understanding on End of Attacks Reported

TA0906180895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jun 95

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement has been achieved between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on halting the attacks from the autonomous areas. Over the last few days Yasir 'Arafat made the assessment that Hamas has agreed to put an end to attacks from the autonomous areas. This is not a written agreement, but rather takes the form of a sort of implied understanding which the Hamas leaders will continue to publicly deny, as they are indeed doing. 'Arafat's assessment, however, is based on ongoing contacts by his men with Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip. Even if a certain amount of caution and wariness are called for in referring to this understanding, we should regard it as harboring a chance for a turnaround, and this is indeed how knowledgeable Israeli sources regard it.

Let us recall that approximately one month ago a similar draft understanding was reached between the PLO and the Islamic Jihad, which is also being publicly denied. The reasons behind these developments are the signs for extremely quick progress in the negotiations over the West Bank; the terror organizations do not want to appear to be responsible for holding up the evacuation of the cities by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

'Arafat claims he has managed to win over the Palestinian street and that Hamas is concerned about tough measures he may take against it. Meanwhile, 'Arafat is delaying signing off on the sentences meted out by the state security court in Gaza against the activists of these movements.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Official 'Cautiously Optimistic' on Talks

MM1306074895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Syrian Official: Extension Option Still Open; Final Position Depends on Situation in Region"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut — A high-ranking Syrian official has, contrary to his previous stance, expressed noticeable optimism regarding the peace negotiations. He told visitors that he was "cautiously optimistic about the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations." He said that final judgment of the result "would depend on the degree of Tel Aviv's willingness to fulfill its initial acceptance of the need for equal, balanced, and parallel security arrangements, contrary to its past position."

In his conversations with visiting Lebanese ministers, deputies, and dignitaries, the prominent Syrian official said that "Tel Aviv's retreat from its previous position in favor of equal and balanced arrangements between the two countries has opened the way for the resumption of Syrian-Israeli military negotiations in Washington."

He praised the role played by Washington through the pressing activity of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross. He said that "the military negotiations which will be held on 27 June between Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi and Israeli Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq will take some time before agreement is reached reflecting the change that has occurred in the Israeli concept of security arrangements."

The Syrian official admitted that "there is still a large gap between the Syrian and Israeli concepts of security arrangements despite the fact that Tel Aviv has agreed to reconsider its position on such arrangements in a way that has made it possible to resume the military talks under U.S. sponsorship." He stressed that "one should not be complacent about initial positions and should not treat them as final."

He said that "statements by senior U.S. officials are overoptimistic. That is why we must be cautious in testing Israel's real intentions. If optimism is warranted, then it has to be specifically about the change that has occurred in the Israeli position."

He added: "In view of the Israeli position, we cannot deny that there has been some progress but we must not now begin to behave as if we had reached a final agreement. That would require protracted efforts and continuation of the military meetings to confirm the credibility of the Israeli position."

In reply to a question, the Syrian official said: "We in Damascus view what has been achieved so far positively, particularly as we made no concessions regarding the constant Syrian principles pertaining to the establishment of peace. We emphasize that the real test of Israeli intentions is the security issue as a precondition for proceeding to other issues of future relations and normalization."

On the Lebanese situation following the formation of the new cabinet, the Syrian official said: "We in Damascus support all steps aimed at consolidating stability at all levels. We approach the Lebanese issue from that angle. We have provided all necessary facilities and expressed a profound desire not to interfere in the cabinet formation process."

He added: "We told all Lebanese officials that we wished the new government to be formed in Beirut without our being involved in details or in names of cabinet members." He said that "the process was completed without prior consultation with us because we did not wish others to get us involved in the formation process."

The Syrian official also said: "Damascus provided all the facilities and, through Syrian envoys to Beirut, participated in ironing out some obstacles because we felt that the new government must be given the chance to find solutions to the social and economic problems and the demands of the teachers and workers."

He said that the "Lebanese situation is delicate because of its direct link to the peace negotiations." He stressed that "the [Lebanese] presidential issue should be viewed from the angle of the negotiations and it may be too early to reopen discussions on presidential elections."

The Syrian official emphasized that "there is no final decision in Damascus regarding the presidential issue although the extension of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term remains one of the options. The presidential elections are still open to all possibilities, depending on the peace negotiations." [passage omitted]

Further on Israeli-Syrian Peace Talks

NC1206135295 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, June 12 (AFP)—Syria is ready for military talks with Israel in a mood of cautious optimism and considers them a testing ground for Israeli intentions and continued US support, officials and diplomats said Monday [12 June].

"Talks will take place in Washington at the level of chiefs of staff for three days with the US sponsor. Military experts will then try and see how far progress can be made on the security arrangements," a Syrian official said.

"After that political talks will take place between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors with the US sponsor," the official said.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced the resumption of the step-by-step talk starting on June 27, under US auspices, after discussions with Israeli and Syrian leaders last week.

Generals Hikmat al-Shihabi of Syria and Israel's Amnon Shahak will discuss security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized in the June 1967 war and annexed in 1981.

US officials have said that General Daniel Christman, a senior assistant to US chief of staff John Shalikashvili, will be present at the military talks in an apparent bid to guarantee its success.

"Syria is very serious about the negotiations," Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah told AFP as Christopher wound up his latest peace mission on Sunday.

"If it were up to Syria, peace would have been accomplished a long time ago," he said.

The ruling party newspaper AL-BA'TH expected the Washington talks to "clarify many questions which will either strengthen the agreement on a framework for security arrangements or things will return to square one."

For the official SYRIA TIMES, Christopher's latest mission gave the peace process "a new momentum and has spread a climate of optimism."

A Western diplomat in Damascus said the top-brass meeting would attempt to "break the first lock to test confidence on both sides, and if all goes well they could then launch into aspects of their negotiations."

Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff met once only, in December 1994, but the talks failed to produce results. "It paralysed the peace process almost completely," the Syrian official said.

Diplomats said Syria was keen to avoid a repeat performance and noted that Washington was determined to make progress ahead of elections in Israel and the United States next year.

Asked what Syria expected from the United States, the official said: "That they play the role they promised to play in favour of a just and comprehensive peace in the region."

But the official stressed that security arrangements were "only one of the many parts which form the peace process."

Syria and Israel disagree on the scope and timing of a Golan pullout as well as when to start normalising ties.

"To end the state of war between Syria and Israel we must remove all traces of the June 1967 war and that means an Israeli withdrawal to the June 4, 1967 border. Peace and occupation don't mix," the Syrian official said.

U.S. Urged To Consider Syrian 'Sensitivity'

MM1306100095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour...the Crucial Stage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher today begins the crucial stage of his current tour of the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke yesterday of what he termed "extraordinary prospects for peace" in the Middle East at present. Perhaps he will today present his views to the Syrian leadership as regards setting a schedule for the peace process on the Israeli-Syrian front, especially for the awaited military negotiations over the required security arrangements in the event of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

As is known, Damascus agreed before Christopher began his current tour to resume these negotiations in Washington. By doing so it has proved that it is not a stumbling block in the way of peace, as claimed by some "hawks" of the Zionist lobby in Washington. However, it is not obliged to accept the Israeli interpretation of the "security arrangements." Thus if Washington has another interpretation, it is welcomed.

The Syrian position openly insists on a full, comprehensive, and quick withdrawal from the Golan. While Israel wants a phased withdrawal extending over four years. In addition to this disagreement there is another obstacle relating to the "normalization" issue, which is linked to the withdrawal. "Normalization" in particular is the crux of the issue, because it represents the economic and political dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, not just the current differing negotiation positions between Syria and Israel. And it would actually be wise — as a Western, not Arab, diplomatic source said — if Washington and Tel Aviv "take account of Syria's excessive sensitivity as regards the dangers of Israel's economic and cultural domination of the Middle East" after peace has been established. Indeed, despite all the statements made by the political leaders and the fabricated and hasty enthusiasm to conduct normalization, the psychological gap between the peoples still exists.

How can this gap be filled?

The answer is simple: No normalization "from the top." No normalization through force or bribery, but, rather, through a just and real peace that convinces Arab and Israeli citizens that it is equally beneficial to them. And also by building a foundation of trust not based on domination, discrimination, hegemony, or monopolization of influence and decisionmaking.

Palestinians Demanding IDF Withdrawal From All Towns

TA1206132795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hasan 'Asfur, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel, said the Palestinians are no longer interested in the Janin First plan and are demanding an Israeli withdrawal from all West Bank towns.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Asfur accused Israel of distributing false reports about its readiness to withdraw from only four towns, which is aimed at sewing confusion among the Palestinians.

Israelis, Palestinians Meet on Early Empowerment

TA1306070795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At Neve Ilan near Jerusalem, Israel and the Palestinians will today continue talks on the transfer of civilian powers in the West Bank to the self-rule government. Representatives from both sides expected to reach agreement on the transfer of eight spheres of power by 1 July, but said that the actual handover would probably take place after that. Talks are also continuing on the establishment of nine industrial parks in the autonomous areas.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has demanded that the parks be under the Palestinian Authority's [PA] jurisdiction. The first park is expected to open in the northern Gaza Strip with funding from the World Bank and European nations. Spain announced last night it was donating $17 million to the PA.

Peres Meets Mauritanian Foreign Minister

TA1206150795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred in Madrid today with Mauritania's foreign minister. Mauritania, a member of the Arab League, is located south of Morocco. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz has learned that it was agreed in the meeting to continue the contacts between the two states and to look into the possibility of cooperation. The Mauritanian foreign minister will participate in the conference on Middle East Cooperation, which will be a continuation of the Casablanca conference and will convene in Amman toward the end of the year.

Algeria

Vietnamese National Assassinated in Tiaret

LD1206173595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced today the assassination of Vietnamese national (Ngoyan Ho Fyan) by an armed group at about 1100 hours this morning on Cheib Mohamed quarter's main street in Tiaret Province. The 61-year-old Vietnamese was a lecturer at Tiaret University.

Ministry Condemns Killing

LD1206233695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian Government has strongly condemned the assassination on 12 June of a Vietnamese national working as a lecturer at Tiaret University.

A statement issued by the Algerian Foreign Ministry said that the government strongly condemns this new crime and renews its determination to work relentlessly to put an end to such criminal acts, which run contrary to the traditions of hospitality known about Algeria and its people.

Al-Nahdah's Djaballah on Stance on Elections

MM0906135295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 4

[Report by Salah Jamil: "Djaballah Believes 'Subversive Tendency' First Beneficiary of Algerian Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian al-Nahdah Movement, has said that the popular gathering in the Algerian capital today is the first step in a series of steps agreed by the parties signatory to the "national covenant" document in order to rally support for this agreement amid the government's continued rejection of its provisions.

Shaykh Djaballah added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the parties to the Rome agreement "agreed to explain the national covenant to the people and to work to win their support for it. And they decided to begin to organize a popular gathering" today in the Harcha Hall in the capital, Algiers. The Algerian al-Nahdah Movement's leader accused the authorities again of continuing to black out the opposition parties' activities. He said that "the calls for the popular gathering announced by the group were not covered by the media. The newspaper AL-UMMAH was criticized for reporting it.

On the presidential elections Djaballah said that the authorities' aim behind these elections is nothing but to "win more time in order to continue its policy of establishing a political and economic system from which its men and allies of the subversive tendency would be the first beneficiaries."

He added that "we rejected elections of that kind and called for organizing a real dialogue that secures all objective conditions in order to organize free, fair, and pluralistic elections as a correct start toward restoring security and stability to the country."

On relations among the parties to the national covenant, Djaballah said that they "are not relations of alliance aimed at unifying the positions toward the authorities' proposals. They are relations of coordination aimed at exchanging views and bringing positions closer so as to guarantee that the content of the national covenant is respected."

On the form of this coordination, now that the presidential elections are approaching, Djaballah said that "the group has not unified its position on bilateral meetings with the authorities. They left every party to decide whether to take part, provided the national covenant is not departed from." He added: "I believe that that is the right decision vis-a-vis the elections as long as relations among the parties have not reached alliance level. That is, unless important factors emerge on the national and international scene and convince the parties of the need to develop relations among themselves."

Shaykh Djaballah said that "the draft election law, the Interior Ministry's instructions, the media blockade imposed on the opposition parties, the worsening security situation, and all current factors confirm that the authorities intend to make the elections a big party at which to crown those with whom the decisionmakers are satisfied."

He added that the authorities are not seeking through the elections "a real legitimacy that enjoys the people's confidence as a start toward a solution to the Algerian crisis. They are seeking another five-year term for a president eager to continue to implement the victor-vanquished policies still pursued — the policies which have been behind the failure of all the attempts made to resolve the crisis politically and comprehensively."

He said that he will present his view of the presidential elections to the movement's shura council, which will "take what it believes is the necessary and right decision" in this connection.

Djaballah Says Harcha Meeting 'Successful'

MM1306104095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Djaballah Stresses to AL-HAYAH That Opposition Gathering Was Successful Despite Authorities' Harassment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, has, in an interview with AL-HAYAH, maintained that the Harcha meeting organized by the opposition parties the day before yesterday was "successful" despite the "authorities' harassment" and the arrests made before and during the gathering. He also said that Shaykh Abassi Madani, leader of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], is still in the Algerian capital, contrary to the Interior Ministry's claim that he and his deputy Shaykh Ali Belhadj were sent back to prison.

Djaballah said that Shaykh Madani had in fact sent a message to the presidency which received it with satisfaction. In the past, the al-Nahdah leader has played an important role in mediations between the government of President Liamine Zeroual and FIS leaders. He has close contacts with some parties within the regime which were not severed even under the worst conditions.

The day before yesterday, Djaballah attended the Harcha gathering organized by the parties that signed the national convenant in Rome last January. In a speech there, he accused the authorities of pursuing a "boycott policy." He reaffirmed that there is no way out of the crisis except "a just and comprehensive peaceful solution."

AL-HAYAH yesterday asked Shaykh Djaballah to give his assessment of the Harcha meeting. He replied that "the gathering was the first popular mass activity of the national convenant group. It was part of the political action aimed at rallying public support for the opposition's efforts and views on the crisis and ways of resolving it." He said that the gathering was successful despite the many obstacles planted in its way by the authorities. He enumerated these obstacles as follows:

"1. Delaying the official permit for the gathering until the evening of 6 June, just three days before it was to be held.

"2. Arresting many young men who were posting the invitation to the gathering on walls. They were interrogated and then released.

"3. Preventing many people who came from areas of the capital and its suburbs from participating in the gathering.

"4. Arresting young men before and during the gathering to instill fear in people's minds. Some detainees were released but we do not know if all have been released.

"5. Official media blackout and suspension of the papers which published the invitation to the meeting such as AL-UMMAH, AL- HURRIYAH, and LA NATION. And there were many other harassments."

He added: "I consider the gathering a success despite all these harassments. About 15,000 people came to Harcha, although the hall's capacity is 8,000. It was packed full and so were the stands. The audience responded very positively to the speeches."

When told that his estimate of the number of people who attended was quite different from what was reported in the Algerian press, he replied that the estimates of the local papers reflected their attitudes towards the national convenant parties.

When asked whether he was pleased with the attendance, he replied: "Yes, I was satisfied. It was the first gathering of its kind since the beginning of the crisis. It came after some lean years during which terror spread and fear gripped the Algerian people."

Asked what the national convenant group intends to do now after its first popular activity, he replied that the opposition parties "agreed that it is necessary to go to the people and enlist their support for efforts to resolve the crisis, but there is no ready plan now for the organization of another meeting or gathering. We must first assess the Harcha gathering, but there is agreement that we must turn to the people."

He said that the al-Nahdah Movement has not yet determined its position regarding the Algerian presidency's invitation to a meeting to discuss the official reply to the memorandum on the elections.

On the prevention of Shaykh Ali Djedi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham from participation in the Harcha meeting, Djaballah said: "The authorities are determined not to recognize the FIS. They maintained that allowing them to attend would have meant de facto field recognition (of the FIS), which the authorities did not want to do. But I feel that there will be a breakthrough. I believe that the authorities will move toward acceptance of the proposals made for the settlement of the crisis. These proposals are, in brief, that the FIS leaders should be released and form another party under a different name, and in return the FIS would stop armed action."

Asked if he based what he said on specific indications, he replied: "There are no indications. I just have a feeling."

Did he not think that that ran counter to the government's position expressed days ago by Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif when he said that Shaykh Abassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj were sent back to prison? He replied: "That is just talk. We know that (Shaykh) Abassi is still in the capital. He sent a message to the presidency. We do not know the contents of that message but the presidency received it with satisfaction."

Islamic Society Figures Preview London Meeting

Nahnah Explains Meeting's Goal

MM1306091495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, by Nadyah Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mahdid] What is the aim of your visit to London and your lecture?

[Nahnah] Our meetings with the Algerian community are not new. They have been continuing for years for the sake of guidance, enlightenment, and direct communication.

But the conditions Algeria is experiencing these days, the multifaceted crisis the Algerian people are experiencing among themselves, the existence of some political parties operating outside Algeria at present, in addition to the authorities' attempt to mold the Algerian community the way they want... all these factors have caused a section of the Algerian people's sons to live outside Algerian territory.

This is why the Islamic Society Movement worked to arrange a meeting with a section of Algeria's sons here in Britain to explain to them its view of the Algerian crisis, its causes, and the solutions to it.

[Mahdid] How were preparations made to get the Algerian community to attend the seminar?

[Nahnah] The Algerian community is long-standing. Its men and women have made different choices, but love of the homeland brings them together. Through our contacts with a section of our sons, brothers, and sisters they have prepared for this meeting in Britain this time. Because Britain — by virtue of its status and protection of human rights, and in view of the freedoms enjoyed by the British people and the fact that this large island has managed to combine a variety of ideologies, races, and religions — would not object to a group of Algeria's sons listening to another voice which they have not heard for years, especially in view of the Algerian crisis.

[Mahdid] Do you plan to hold such meetings in Maghreb, Arab, or foreign states?

[Nahnah] We would like Algerian public opinion to know the truth about the Algerian crisis through our views, because the media services, politicians, and some Algerian parties are making their contribution through the remote-control method.

As for us, we are experiencing the Algerian battle at first hand, interacting with it and suffering from its effects and the various excesses committed against us by the security, coercion, and media organs. So we have arguments which we present to public opinion.

[Mahdid] Under what title or slogan did you prepare for this seminar?

[Nahnah] The seminar is entitled "Algerians Gathering in Europe." As for the seminar's slogan, it is: The Algerian Crisis - - Its Causes and the Movement's View of a solution.

[Mahdid] How were members of the delegation that conducted the seminar chosen?

[Nahnah] As you know, it is difficult to obtain entry visas in view of the worsening crisis. So the selection was not voluntary but, rather, mandatory. Those who found it easy to obtain a visa joined the delegation to hold discussions with some Algerians in complete freedom and democracy.

[Mahdid] Are there no contacts between the Foreign Office here and the Foreign Ministry in Algeria to facilitate matters for political parties and figures?

[Nahnah] On the contrary, because we are the movement's leaders we have a multiple visa for more than a year, but it is about to expire. Some members of the movement and friends apply for visas outside Algerian territory, from Tunisia. So there are great difficulties. We had hoped that the British Government would facilitate our contacts, because it certainly knows that our movement is a democratic movement that renounces violence. It is a democratic movement seeking to coexist with others and to present arguments peacefully and rationally. And what a difference between those who operate peacefully and those who do not.

[Mahdid] But do you not deal with the British authorities directly to facilitate visa procedures for all?

[Nahnah] We have begun our contacts in this connection, and it seems that our Islamic and political dialogues with these states, first and foremost Britain, could facilitate matters in the future, God willing. There is hope.

Menasria Describes Aims of Trip

MM1306105595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Abdelmadjid Menasria, deputy speaker of the Transitional National Council and HAMAS member, by Nadyah Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mahdid] What is the framework of your visit to Britain?

[Menasria] My presence here falls within the Islamic Society Movement's [HAMAS] political and informational framework. I am accompanying the movement's leader, Shaykh Nahnah. The aim is also to brief the community on the situation in Algeria and to give them hope regarding their return and change, in order not to allow other views to distort the situation.

[Mahdid] Are you representing the Transitional National Council [TNC] at this seminar, or are you here as a HAMAS member?

[Menasria] We are here within the framework of the movement.

[Mahdid] What are the aims of today's activities?

[Menasria] One of the aims is to discuss the proposed solutions to the crisis and to discuss the points of weakness and the shortcomings in these solutions. And to try to find a comprehensive method to tackle all aspects of the crisis — a method that takes account of all dimensions and looks for a solution realistically and sincerely without oneupmanship.

[Mahdid] Will you broach the elections and the presidential elections?

[Menasria] Any change must be subject to the law, otherwise it is a haphazard change and will not benefit society.

[Mahdid] Talking to you as deputy speaker of the TNC, does that law include the political parties' proposals and recommendations?

[Menasria] With regard to the amendment of the electoral law, which the political parties called for, the natural place for that now is the TNC. This will allow it to be discussed better than before. The legislative committee will begin to study the electoral law on Monday (tomorrow) [12 June]. And there is an important draft law concerning the security aspect vis-a-vis the protection of property. It is very important in the current conditions Algeria is experiencing. There is nothing strange about such a law in developed states.

FFS Aide: 'Violence Will Never Triumph'

MM1206133295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Jun 95 p 6

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Acting Secretary General of Socialist Forces Front Tells AL-HAYAH: National Covenant Open to Change; Violence Will Never Triumph in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers — Moustafa Bouhaddaf, acting secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has stated that the Algerian regime should agree to come to the negotiating table and that the national convenant could be the starting point for such negotiations. He stressed that the national convenant was open to change "but the regime is not giving any signals in that direction."

He said: "We believe that the regime is following a rejectionist line." He added: "We are barred at the informational level and are not allowed to speak on television."

Bouhaddaf, who takes charge of the FFS in the absence of Hocine Ait-Ahmed, its secretary general, talked about the security situation. It may be true, he said, that there has been a drop in the level of security operations on the ground, but the regime is maintaining its political security stance and oppression. The authorities have done nothing to indicate that the regime wants to negotiate." He continued: "When they talk about dialogue, it is always false dialogue."

He said: "We hear every day about bridges blown up and municipalities burned down (outside the capital). There are limited actions to get Algeria accustomed to a certain level of violence. The situation is not under control. We do not want armed movements whatever they are."

He added: "None of the warring parties will triumph through the violence which has spread to all provinces." He pointed out that "violence has reached a level which cannot be stopped overnight."

He said that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] "does not control all the armed Islamic groups. There are some non-Islamic armed groups and gangster groups. The only solution is to let the FIS participate in political life and the dialogue. That way the groups which resort to violence but want dialogue would be controlled."

Bouhaddaf said that "The FIS has not stopped losing popularity since 1991 because it is partially responsible for the current violence. The Algerian people are aware of that."

He said that the aim of the Harcha demonstration was to explain the national convenant and advocate a search for a peaceful solution "because the security and political situations are not suitable for holding elections. That means that the government's candidate, whoever he may be, would win the elections."

Dembri Meets Jordanian Foreign Ministry Official

LD1206160995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri received Shahir Nayif al-Hadid, the director-general of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry and personal envoy of the foreign minister, at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Speaking on the meeting and the Middle East peace process, al-Hadid said to radio correspondent Ahmed Soukou:

[Begin al-Hadid recording] I have conveyed a message to the Algerian foreign minister from the Jordanian foreign minister concerning bilateral relations and means of promoting them. There is an idea for a Jordanian-Algerian meeting to set up a joint higher committee, or a ministerial committee. We are in the process of setting the bases and the machinery for the committee so that it contributes toward promoting relations between the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Minister Reaffirms Intention To Hold Elections

LD0906230395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a long speech today on the occasion of the convening of the Barcelona conference of the signatories to the environment treaty, Interior Minister Abdelrahmane Meziane Cherif who is leading the Algerian delegation to this meeting, talked about rational management of the land. He said that Algeria was aware of the hopes pinned on the poor soil, shrinking forests, plant cover, desert encroachment, shortage of water and construction mess as well as industrial pollution. These are elements which are attacking present and future generations. [passage omitted]

Talking about the situation in Algeria, the interior minister addressed a message of hope and underlined that the everlasting Algeria will emerge great from this painful stage in its history. He added that our brothers must know that our weakness can never a source for their strength. Therefore, the interior minister explained : We are convinced that one can rely on your effective solidarity so that one can safeguard democracy of which we are proud.

The interior minister added: We are trying, in the coming months, to return to the electoral path in order to let the people have their say once again under circumstances in which elections can take place without any obstacles.

Egypt

Musa Meets Pelletreau, Comments on Negotiations

NC1306095995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0842 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has reiterated the Egyptian position on the need to achieve a comprehensive and just Middle East peace based on UN resolutions.

The foreign minister stressed the importance of making concrete and clear progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track before 1 July to send a clear message to the supporters of peace that the negotiations are making progress and are paving the way for Palestinian self-determination.

Musa made these remarks during his talks today with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs. The foreign minister explained the need to safeguard Arab interests in connection with the peace process both in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. He said that regional cooperation must serve the interests of all the parties and be based on projects that benefit everyone concerned.

Commenting on the work of the multilateral negotiations' arms reduction committee, Musa remarked that discussion of President Husni Mubarak's initiative to turn the Middle East into a region free of weapons of mass destruction must begin. He noted the importance of conducting a serious dialogue among the concerned parties to formulate specific ideas about implementing this initiative.

Pelletreau stated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher instructed him to brief Musa on the results of his talks in the region and to discuss ways of boosting U.S.-Egyptian ties. He added that they had a broad discussion of all regional issues, bilateral ties, regional economic cooperation, arms reduction, and the peace process.

Pelletreau added that they made preparations for the meeting of the joint Egyptian-U.S. economic committee agreed on by President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Comments on Mubarak Talks With 'Arafat

NC1206120495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that during their meeting today President Husni Mubarak and Gambian President Yahya Jammeh exchanged views on African and regional issues and preparations for the coming African summit.

Speaking after the meeting today, al-Sharif said that the two presidents also discussed bilateral cooperation to achieve developments in Gambia, particularly in the agricultural, educational, and information fields. He added that Egypt is fully prepared to provide all assistance to achieve comprehensive developments in Gambia.

Commenting on President Mubarak's meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, al-Sharif said that the discussion focused on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's visit to Cairo, the results of the Cairo tripartite meeting, and the future steps to achieve progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Mubarak, 'Arafat, Gambian President Hold Talks

NC1206105595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA) — A three-way summit among President Husni Mubarak, Gambian President Yahya Jammeh, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat was held this afternoon following a Mubarak-Jammeh meeting, which lasted for 45 minutes.

The three presidents are scheduled to resume their talks in a working lunch President Mubarak will host at the Presidential Palace. The lunch will be attended by the delegations of Egypt, Gambia, and Palestine.

Musa Meets Gambian President, Comments on Ties

NC1206194495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Jun (MENA) — Gambian President Yahya Jammeh met this evening Dr. Yusuf Wali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; and Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi.

After the meeting, Foreign Minister Musa said they discussed ways to implement what Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Yahya Jammeh agreed upon at this morning's talks concerning the consolidation of cooperation between Egypt and Gambia in several fields. He added that the cooperation particularly targets the agricultural sector by sending Egyptian agricultural experts to Gambia to provide technical assistance and receiving specialized personnel from Gambia for training in Egypt. The cooperation also aims to extend technical assistance in the medical and engineering sectors and to send doctors and engineers to provide their expertise.

Musa said that in the effort to encourage trade and investment exchanges between Egypt and Gambia, the Gambian president will meet with a number of Egyptian investors and members of the industrial federation when he visits Madinat al-'Ashir Min Ramadan tomorrow morning, Tuesday.

He added that the Gambian agriculture minister will visit several Egyptian model farms and agricultural studies centers to see the latest technology used in boosting agricultural productivity.

The foreign minister said the Gambian local administration minister will visit the Police Academy tomorrow to discuss an agreement under which Egypt is to provide Gambia with experts to train Gambian security officials on combating drugs and to receive missions from Gambia for training in various security techniques.

Musa noted that there are other aspects of cooperation between the two countries, including transportation, communications, and health.

Irish Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

NC1206205095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak is scheduled to receive Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring tomorrow. The Irish foreign minister arrived in Cairo tonight for a two-day visit.

Official talks will begin tomorrow afternoon between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Irish foreign minister on the Middle East situation and Ireland's and the EU's role in advancing the peace process.

In an arrival statement, the Irish foreign minister said he looks forward to meeting President Mubarak tomorrow because Ireland values President Mubarak's role in advancing the Middle East peace process. He added that the EU can play an effective role in pushing the peace process forward because the EU is interested in establishing peace in the region.

He said that the EU currently backs the Palestinian Authority and that it will participate in supervising the scheduled elections in the Palestinian territories. He added that the aim of his visit to Egypt is, first, to discuss ways to boost bilateral relations, and, second, to prepare for Ireland's chairmanship of the EU next year.

The Irish foreign minister's visit to Egypt marks the beginning of a tour that will also take him to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian self-rule territories.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC1306094595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA) — In a statement following President Mubarak's meeting with Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the two discussed relations between Egypt and Ireland in trade, investment, and tourism. President Mubarak and the Irish minister also discussed Egyptian, Arab, and Middle East relations with Europe, since Ireland is a member of the European Union and will chair the union during the second half of 1996, Musa added. He said: We expect the negotiations on a partnership between Egypt and Europe to peak during this period. [passage omitted]

The Irish foreign minister said his talks with President Husni Mubarak dealt with developments in the Middle East, which, he said, give rise to optimism. He added that he also exchanged views concerning bilateral relations, European-Egyptian relations, and developments in the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. Meeting Seen Heralding Peace

NC1006161595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 Jun 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Mubarak-Rabin-Christopher Meeting Marks the Beginning of a New Move Toward Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Because peace is a noble goal that all nations seek and because peace guarantees a suitable atmosphere to work for progress, economic development, and prosperity, the desire for peace was bound to triumph eventually despite all challenges.

Mubarak's meeting yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher confirms this fact. It also marks a new phase in the serious and sincere work for a just peace in this sensitive region, whose security and stability is linked to the security and peace of the world.

Mubarak's meeting with Rabin and Christopher had special importance because it showed first of all that Egypt is the key to security and peace in the Middle East in light of its leading position, political clout, and good relations with all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Had it not been for the strenuous efforts that Egypt exerted and is still exerting through President Mubarak, none of these advances toward peace would have been possible. This is what President Mubarak noted when he said Egypt has been working for peace for 18 years now.

Secondly, the tripartite meeting came after a difficult period during which some people thought that the peace process had faltered or even was about to collapse. This belief was especially strong after such events as Israel's rejection of nuclear disarmament, Israel's reluctance to implement the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli accord, and Washington's use of the veto at the Security Council, all of which cast gloomy shadows on the peace process.

Thirdly, the meeting showed that direct negotiations are the ideal way to resolve all differences because they provide a genuine opportunity to discuss all matters objectively until a solution satisfactory to everyone is reached. Moreover, such meetings block all attempts to apply pressure or use oneupmanship.

Fourthly, the tripartite meeting showed Egyptian diplomacy's success in its continuous moves in all areas and at all world and regional forums to promote a just peace in the Middle East. Here was Israel, the primary party to the peace process, and the United States, the primary sponsor of the Madrid conference, meeting at the highest level with President Mubarak to assess the peace process and reaffirm its continuation to the end. This crowns Egypt's recent initiatives, through President Mubarak, in Damascus and Cairo with President Hafiz al-Asad and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, as well as through his talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and earlier in Paris with French President Jacques Chirac.

Despite this success at the tripartite meeting—especially Rabin's announcement that Israel has passed the point of no return in implementing the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and his claim of noticeable progress on the Syrian-Israeli track—we still can only hope that these statements will be translated into action in coming days and that peace will be achieved as soon as possible. This will not happen unless there are sincere intentions by all sides, especially Israel, who must realize that a just peace based on international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace is the only way to ensure security and peace for the Israeli people. Also, Washington must continue its role as a principal, neutral partner of the Arabs and Israel in order to protect the peace process until the end.

Most important of all is for everyone to realize that peace is a fundamental goal in the interest of all parties; and therefore, there is no room for deception, pressure, retreat, or using peace for electioneering. There are great hopes that these peace efforts will achieve a breakthrough on all Arab-Israeli tracks in the coming months.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From Talks in Malawi

EA1206122895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, returned from Malawi this evening after a one-day visit to Malawi during which he had a meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni which was also attended by the Malawian president, Bakili Muluzi. On arrival, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that an agreement had been signed between Sudan and Uganda on resuming diplomatic relations. He stressed that the talks between him and and the Ugandan president had been successful. He pointed out that both sides had agreed to remove all obstacles and to stop all hostile actions against each other. His excellency announced that both sides had agreed to reactivate the joint ministerial committee between the two countries and to establish a joint committee chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries as well as the Malawian foreign minister. The president of the Republic praised the efforts made by the Malawian president and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to improve relations between Sudan and Uganda. [passage omitted]

[Begin al-Bashir recording] An agreement was also reached on the gradual resumption of diplomatic relations. In addition, an agreement was reached on establishing an observer group comprising Sudan, Uganda, Malawi [word indistinct] and maybe other states which would review all cases from both sides and work toward resolving them. On our part, we submitted all the information we had regarding the activities of the hostile outlaws [Sudanese rebel movement], their whereabouts in Uganda, their movements, their offices, and their leaders, as well as the activities of voluntary organizations operating in Uganda. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Italian Relief Doctor To Be Investigated, Charged

EA0906113895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general, has declared that it has been decided to question Italian doctor (Giuseppe Meo), who was captured by the Sudanese authorities last week in the (Farian) area in al-Wahdah state. He added that the chief attorney of the public prosecutor's office, counsellor Taj al-Sirr Fadl al-Mawla, had been entrusted with the investigation of the doctor, who infiltrated the country without permission from the authorities, which is illegal.

He said that (Meo) will face charges under Article 30 of the Passports and Immigration Law of 1993, as well as charges under Articles 51 (A), 53, and 57 of the 1991 Criminal Law, which generally deals with cooperation with the rebel movement, which carrying out a war against the state. He will also face charges of spying and being present in military zones.

For his part, Counsellor Fadl al-Mawli affirmed that investigation proceedings will start immediately, and that they will be in accordance with the provisions of the code of procedures, which guarantees all the accused's legal rights.

The Italian doctor, (Giuseppe Meo), who is 57 years old, entered the Jibal al-Nubah area in southern Kurdufan state on 25 May in a (Cargen 40) plane, which is one of the planes used by the Italian Committee for Medical Cooperation's Lifeline Program.

The plane also entered Sudanese air space in the (Farian) area, in al-Wahdah state, in the Upper Nile area. The plane was seized and the doctor captured. We also point out that a peace convoy had entered the (Farian) area within the framework of a local peace accord, as part of a program of peace from within. There was a camp, about nine kilometres from the area, belonging to the rebels, from which the Italian doctor provided them with support.

Rebels Divert UN Plane Carrying Doctor

AB1006202995 Paris AFP in English 1819 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, June 10 (AFP) — A UN plane sent to collect an Italian doctor from the south Sudanese town of Paryang has apparently been hijacked by rebels to a locality under their control, the state-run SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) said Saturday [10 June].

Quoting a foreign ministry source, it said as saying the plane landed at Paryang, in Unity State, to pick up the doctor, Giuseppe Meo, and took off but then flew to the rebel-controlled town of Chukudum, in eastern Equatoria.

The plane had been authorised to travel to Paryang under an agreement between Khartoum and the United Nations to "complete arrangements for his hand-over to the Italian government," the agency said.

Sudanese authorities are closely monitoring the situation at Chukudum, which is held by the mainstream faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army led by John Garang and was seeking, in coordination with UN officials, to free the seized passengers, it added.

The agency did not say when the plane was diverted or give other details.

Ministry Confirms Rebel Seizure of Plane

EA1106190595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has announced that the rebel movement has seized an aircraft belonging to the United Nations that was sent to collect the Italian doctor, Giuseppe Meo, who was recently abducted in Chukudum [in eastern Equatoria] area controlled by the rebel movement. A number of Sudanese workers were aboard the aircraft.

The source added that the aircraft was sent to collect the Italian doctor and to bring him to Khartoum to complete the process of handing him over to the Italian authorities. The source said that before the aircraft was sent, an agreement was reached between Operation Lifeline Sudan and the rebel movement that guaranteed the security of the aircraft and its passengers. Upon arrival in Paryang, it left for Chukudum with all its passengers aboard and touched down there.

The source added that the Government of Sudan is monitoring the situation very closely, and is endeavoring with the United Nations to have all the detained passengers released as well as seeking to resolve the problem quickly. The source added that the Sudanese workers detained in the aircraft are engaged in humanitarian duties with the United Nations.

GCC Urges Iran-UAE Talks Over Disputed Islands

MM1206113595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Gulf Cooperation Council States Hope To Avert Outbreak of War as a Result of Occupation of Islands"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, chairman of the current session of the Ministerial Council (of foreign ministers) of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has stressed that "the GCC states do not want a third war to break out in the Gulf as a result of the continued Iranian occupation of the three islands in the [United Arab] Emirates [UAE]."

Shaykh Muhammad told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at the end of the council's meetings in Riyadh yesterday that "the GCC states hope that the dispute will be resolved peacefully through serious bilateral negotiations because we in the GCC states are working for peace and to safeguard the region's security and stability." He stressed that "all the endeavors being made by leaders of the Gulf states to resolve this dispute are peaceful endeavors governed by the spirit of relations of good-neighborliness and the renunciation of the use or threat of force."

He also said that "we stressed in the final statement the GCC states' collective desire to secure a peaceful solution to this issue, in addition to our support for all the peaceful measures and means adopted by the UAE to recover the three islands. We also called on Iran to agree to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on POW Meeting, GCC Statement

LD1106162795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Jun (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, expressed the hope that the meeting of the tripartite technical committee in charge of the prisoners' issue, which will be held in the second half of this month, will lead to positive results in order to uncover all issues related to the Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees.

In a statement to KUNA before leaving Riyadh and heading for Kuwait after participating in the 55th session of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Shaykh Sabah said that the meeting will be different from previous ones convened in Geneva because it will be held close to the problem area.

He pointed out the participation of the Red Cross, Iraq, Kuwait, and the allied states in the meeting, hoping it will lead to positive results.

He said that this matter will be over when full information on the prisoners and detainees is obtained and that "we hope that they are still alive."

In his statement, Shaykh Sabah praised the outcome of the GCC foreign ministers's meeting that will help consolidate cooperation existing among the GCC member states.

He expressed Kuwait's support for the content of the GCC final statement that welcomed the meeting held between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Shaykh Sabah also expressed Kuwait's support for the welcome given to the border demarcation attained between Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman, and hoped that similar achievements can be reached between countries with border disputes. [passage omitted]

Assembly Rejects Bill on Using Reserves for Deficit

LD1106121995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1743 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Jun — The National Assembly today approved the abrogation of a clause in the civil service law concerning the Council of Ministers' authority to dismiss a civil servant from his post.

The National Assembly's approval was unanimous, particularly since the government and some deputies had separately made requests for the abrogation of clause five of Paragraph 32, decree number 15 of 1979, which does not give a civil servant, dismissed on the basis of a Council of Minister's decree, the right to appeal to the judicial authorities.

In another development, the assembly approved that a proposal allowing the military at the Ministries of Defense and Interior to vote in legislative elections be resubmitted to the assembly's Defense and Interior Committee at its request.

The assembly had approved the proposal in principle, but the head of the Defense and Interior Committee, Rashid al-Hubaydah, had pointed out that it was important to get the Defense Ministry's opinion on the proposal before submitting it to the assembly for voting.

The National Assembly today rejected a decree on amendments to some of the clauses of Law 15 of 1959 regarding Kuwaiti citizenship. The decree, issued in 1987, concerns the granting of Kuwaiti citizenship to people of unknown parentage, whereas the law recognizes them as Kuwaitis by origin.

The National Assembly passed a law in the second reading of a bill on protecting the environment. In its first reading at an earlier session the assembly approved the aforementioned proposal, which said a body should be set up devoted to protecting the environment and that it should be given wide executive powers.

The body that will be attached to the prime minister's office would be empowered to inspect industrial establishments and seize any substances harmful to the environment.

On the other hand, those who supported a bill on lowering the electoral age to 18 years failed to receive the required majority.

Some deputies who put forward the aforementioned proposal explained that it is aimed at increasing popular participation in the legislative elections. They pointed out that the development of youth awareness entitles young men to exercise their political parliamentary rights during that stage of their life.

Some deputies were against lowering the age to 18 years, saying young men at this age can fall victim to many temptations that prevent them from making a sound judgment.

The proposal did not succeed as a matter of principle because most deputies abstained from voting.

On the other hand, the assembly rejected initially a bill submitted by the government on making withdrawals from the future generations reserve. Nasir al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and finance minister, said the project is aimed at balancing the books connected with withdrawals from the reserve of the future generations to cover the deficit in the general reserve of the state.

The deputies who opposed the bill said the National Assembly does not possess the right to grant the government such powers, which extend to a number of years into the future and the remaining life of the assembly is only two years. [passage omitted]

The assembly also rejected a bill that called for taking into account the period military cadets spend in training before their appointments in the armed forces, home, and national guards as part of their service.

Saudi Arabia

Papers Comment on GCC Meeting, Ties With Egypt

LD1206164895 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Riyadh, June 12, SPA — Saudi Arabic newspapers today editorially commented on the pioneering role of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the current situation in Bosnia and the special relationship between the two brotherly states of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Highlighting the role of the GCC, the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said the Gulf Cooperation Council is considered one of the political entity, which is continuing its progressive march in terms of accomplishments and victories over a number of difficult circumstances. 'These victories of the GCC are the outcome of spirit of collective work between its member states, leadership and people. They also aspire for a common goal and a joint perspective.'

Commenting on the same subject, the Jeddah-based OKAZ said the 55th session of the GCC ministerial council in Riyadh was convened at a time of important developments and events facing the gulf and Arab arenas. Its communique, affirmed that the GCC after 14 years of its establishment, was still going ahead in accomplishing its goals and supreme interests in order to fulfill ambitions and targets of the council's people.

Commending on the joint march of the GCC, the Riyadh-based AL- JAZIRAH said since the invasion of Kuwait and the Iranian occupation of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] islands, the gulf region had been facing distinct security disturbances in its contemporary history. 'These security dangers call for the collective movement and cooperative work between the GCC states.'

The newspaper affirmed that the GCC has transformed itself in today's world as one of the important Islamic, Arab and regional entity, which must play a strategic role to establish peace and security in the area in particular and the world at large. [passage omitted]

For their parts, AL-RIYADH and AL-YOUM commented on relations between Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

AL-RIYADH regretted that what had been reported in a section of Egyptian press about the kingdom, certainly overlooked facts and realities of the existing distinguished relations between the two countries.

The newspaper said some writers are bent upon harming interests of not only Egypt but also Saudi Arabia. 'They are trying to prompt a clash between peoples in the two brotherly countries.'

AL-YOUM said those who follow carefully a coordinated campaign in some Egyptian newspapers and magazines against the judicial system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, would certainly be surprised by such malicious propaganda as it would affect ties between the two brotherly countries. 'What is disgusting about this campaign is that it ignores completely all the kingdom's accomplishments and efforts in the sphere of strengthening values of contacts between the Arab countries.'

Council Praises Fahd Meeting With Yemen's Salih

LD1206201195 Riyadh SPA in English
1940 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, June 12, SPA — Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers at al-Salam Palace here Monday.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA Prince Sultan started the meeting with a commentary on the visit by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the kingdom. Prince Sultan described the visit as fruitful and successful on all levels and pointed out that the joint communique released at the end of the visit was the fruit of continuous efforts and intensive meetings and talks by joint committees.

The council praised the fraternal meeting of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Salih and applauded the contents of the joint communique and the cordial spirit which prevailed during the talks and the important accomplishments realized by both sides, which reflect the keenness of the two leaderships to continue to boost and consolidate fraternal, deep-rooted relations between the two peoples and the two countries.

The council also expressed its best wishes of having this summit meeting be the springboard of all that leads to the security, prosperity and constructive cooperation of both countries to realize their best interests.

Al-Sha'ir said the council also listened to a report submitted by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal about the outcome of the 55th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministerial council meetings, and praised the contents of the press communique released following the closing session on Sunday, about various Arab and Islamic issues.

The council expressed deep relief for the great accomplishments realized since the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council under the leadership of the GCC leaders who continue their efforts to realize the joint interests of and close cooperation among the six member states.

The council also reviewed a summary of reports on the most important Arab, Islamic and international developments, notably the Middle East peace process.

The council also reviewed issues on the agenda and issued the following decisions: Firstly, approval of paying a company for the projects it has completed, and approval of paying the due payments to a number of contractors for operation and maintenance work in the city of Jubail, and paying due payments to one company for the operation and maintenance of a water and electric power station in the industrial city of Yanbu. Secondly, the council agreed to have water and municipal authorities pay a certain percentage of its revenues-from the sale of water to consumers, to the saline water conversion corporation.

CDLR Bulletins Address Various Issues

No. 46: Muslim's Duty

MS1206143395 London CDLR Monitor in English
5 May 95 p 7

[Bulletin No. 46 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by fax 12 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Your Right To Know — "Practise the Truth"**

In the last bulletin, the legitimate leaders called for the renewal of the Day of International Solidarity and the organisation of sit-in protests in various cities. As it has been some time since we discussed the matter of the protests with regard to their motives and lawfulness, it is necessary to re-confirm various points related to this issue.

Firstly, a Muslim is bound by Shari'ah to enjoin what is just, and to forbid that which is evil. A Muslim's duty is to protest against wrongdoing in general, but particularly against the wrongdoing of leaders and rulers. The appropriate verses state the obligation of enjoining and advising of justice and good deeds, and the forbidding of that which is wrong, as well as stating severe warnings for those who keep quiet about wrongdoing, when they are capable of criticising them, or even altering them. This was stated in the Prophet's (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him] Hadith very clearly. People must force their leaders to practise truth and righteousness if they are not already doing so, otherwise corruption will spread and Allah would destroy them as he has destroyed nations in the past.

There is a great deal of evidence regarding this matter, but it is not the time now to discuss this issue in detail. However, the main point is that the correction of wrongdoing, especially that of rulers, is an unquestionable duty. No one would be able to debate this fact unless they were repudiating the credibility of Islam. Unfortunately, the wrongdoing of rulers has spread to the extent that evil is often seen as good and vice versa. The dominant feature has become the opposition to Islam and the change of Shari'ah with human laws, or man-made laws. All features regarding Islamic leadership have been totally suppressed, and exchanged with the ideology of hypocrisy and ignorance, to the extent that not one excuse can be offered in favour of such actions. Even if there were one good action for which they could be praised, further investigation would uncover their ulterior motives and so demolish that praise.

The government of this country, which is supposed to be practicing Shari'ah, supporting Muslims everywhere, redressing injustice, guaranteeing fairness, and preaching the Truth of Allah, has transformed our land and beliefs. Al Sa'ud has made it a country which ignores Shari'ah, prostrates itself to the enemies of Islam, creates animosity between Muslims, deceives Muslim, and practices the worst degrees of injustice and deception, all against the peoples' rights. Al Sa'ud fight preaching and reform, and strive to support corruption and embezzlement. They have never hesitated in raging war against Islam itself, they even threw the leaders of the nation, the scholars and reformers, into prison. Al Sa'ud went even further in their crimes by utilising all of their power, money and authority to deform and distort Islam, and to tighten the noose around the preachers. They attempted to lie to the nation in the name of Islam, in order to justify the war they are actually raging against Allah's Truth itself.

It has become evident that this regime is fully aware. It has been fully advised, by the reformers in all situations: both confidentially and openly; both individually and in groups; both verbally and in writing. The reply of the regime after all this detailed advice was their instance on an attitude of stubbornness and arrogance. Instead of the regime's leaning towards the truth it still continues to persist in the violations and crimes. It has been given good advice which is upheld by appropriate verses and statements in memoranda presented to the nation and also supported with actual realities and suitable evidence. Therefore it is clear, from the regime's open war against scholars and reformers, that these premeditated crimes are in no way due to ignorance. Without hesitation we can confirm that the case has been made against the regime and its cohorts. We are actually faced by the following facts: First, it is a fact that the redress of offenses committed by rulers is a legitimate duty and neglecting this duty causes destruction in the present life along with punishment in the hereafter. Second, the rulers have persisted in allowing major crimes to the extent that these have now heralded warnings of destruction: Third, the case against them has been clearly upheld in as far as they have been advised by all possible methods.

So, what is left for us? A faithful, serious, responsible Muslim finds himself now having to fulfill those duties. It has become evident that there must be a way to facilitate this, as advising our rulers has proved to be a fruitless exercise. The change of wrongs can only be brought about as the Prophet (PBUH) teaches us in the Hadith mentioned earlier. This, in essence, means using all legitimate methods of pressure and influence, amongst which can be numbered protests, demonstrations etc, to achieve positive results. The regime must realise that the nation is displeased with their crimes, and Muslims are complaining of the regime's violation of Islam. There has to be a way for the nation to become united in order to face the unjust rulers. Those still holding reservations towards such activities are one of two types: 1) Those concerned for the safety of the protesters, and who fear that this may affect preaching and reform. This is appreciated, but we would remind such people that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was more concerned than them about the nation and the preaching of Islam. He urged the nation to pressurise rulers to practice justice and truth, and indeed the Prophet (PBUH) announced that the death of a scholar for preaching the truth was a great achievement for that scholar. 2) The second type are those who change their views and fatwas with time and circumstances and are not independent in their judgment. They cannot commit themselves to a proper understanding of the relevant verses without being influenced by the might of the rulers. One of those who gave a Fatwa that protesting should be forbidden was embarrassed by one of his students, who reminded him that he had previously stated that this was permissible, when the scholar had been referring to another country.

Therefore, we say that protesting and showing solidarity with the detained scholars and reformers, and the affirmation of considering this as one of the methods of changing wrongdoing, is an legitimate action that would fulfil some of our duties.

The final message we send to our Brothers who ask "what will the protests achieve?" is as follows. We hope that these people will not look to the short-term aim only, in other words, the release of the scholars at any price, as if the problem is limited to a prisoner being deprived of his family and freedom. If this were the only aim, then the answer would be easy. All the detainees would need to do to secure this aim, would be to write a letter of apology seeking mercy and they would be immediately released. However, this scenario is not the case. The regime must realise that they have no right to imprison whomever they want, whenever they want and however they want. The regime must realise that the nation can hold them to account, as they has previously been done with far better leaders. There is no way to bring this into reality except by direct intervention by the nation.

In our present circumstances, the only way forward to achieve this as a first step is by public pressure and the most practical method to use is the sit-in protests. We hope that our brothers will raise themselves above accepting the oppressive realities imposed upon them by the rulers and we hope that such people will be able to break free of their lenient and submissive natures.

Finally, we point out and endorse the necessity of regular participation in the protests in order to ensure success.

News — The Repetition of Corruption Over Hajj Season

We expected the authorities would do their utmost to discredit the Hajj report issue after its widespread distribution, by making various amendments in their methods of dealing with the Hajj itself to embarrass the Committee. However, it would appear that the corruption is too deeply rooted and any hope of change seems to be impossible. In the light of the many reports we received there is no indication of giving priority to services for the pilgrims. On the contrary the whole preparation is concentrated on the service of al Sa'ud, their entourage and guests.

We have been informed that the land distribution plan and the traffic plan were also concentrated on the same clique of people. The first to be applied was the distribution of al-Mas'ari land last week in Mina, and last Sunday in Arafat, where the pilgrims were only allocated 35 per cent of the land of the Holy places, whilst the remaining 65 per cent was reserved for the princes and their groups.

The Success of the Westminster Meeting

The official spokesman of the Committee, Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, was invited to Westminster on Saturday to lecturer at a debate concerning the Kingdom and the Gulf. The debate was held in Jubilee Hall in Westminster Palace where a number of speakers concerned with the Gulf area participated as well.

The debate attracted a large number of political figures, media and academic personalities and representatives of Islamic groups and centres. The presence of the Committee was particularly evident during the debate, especially during the lecture given by Dr. al-Mas'ari, where he discussed the history and realities of the Kingdom in detail. The questions raised following the lecture indicated the extent of public concern regarding the Kingdom's affairs and current events.

A number of personnel from the Saudi Arabian Embassy were present to monitor the discussions closely. To their disappointment, the lecture and the answers of the official Spokesman were extremely well received by the audience.

Saudi Informers Infiltrate Public Services

The emergency services participate each Hajj season with reinforcements brought in from all over the Kingdom. This is of great importance for the safety of the pilgrims.

This year, al Sa'ud decided to "plant" around two hundred intelligence personnel amongst the members of the emergency service, who number over a thousand people. This "infiltration" will obviously reduce the efficiency of the emergency services, as the 200 intelligence personnel are trained to inform the authorities, not save lives.

al-Mabarra Association Closed Down

In the course of the war declared against Islamic charitable organisations in response to the American Zionist project, the intelligence forces assaulted the central office of the Association in mecca and confiscated its property, which mainly consisted of sacks of rice and grain and some clothing. Also closed were the thirteen branches of the Association in Hajaz. Mr 'Abdallah Rashid, the chairman of the association was arrested. This action caused great resentment within charitable circles in the Western region, especially as this particular association is only involved in charitable work, and has nothing to do with the type of political activity. The Association was involved in the sponsorship of over 1500 families.

The Feud within The Family Worsens

It would appear that the situation within the ruling family is proceeding towards the repetition of what happened to the 2nd Saudi State. It was destroyed at the hand of al Sa-ud themselves, due to the internal struggle between the sons of Faysal Bin-Turki Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz.

During the last few days, a rumour was circulated regarding the recent illness of Crown Prince Adballah, in that he did not fall ill from natural causes, but under suspicious circumstances. The finger of accusation was pointed at the Sudairi group. Sultan is trying to control the strings of all the various puppets on the stage to enable him to receive power after Fahd. More details will be given in future bulletins.

Declaration

1) With this bulletin are messages to the pilgrims in Arabic, English, French, Turkish, Indonesian, Malaysian, Urdu, and Persian. We appeal to our readers to distribute these amongst the pilgrims.
2) The Committee distributes with this bulletin, Communique 35 regarding the Collapse of al Riyadh Band.

No. 47: Detentions, Protests

MS1306081995 London CDLR Monitor in English 12 May 95 p 5

[Bulletin No. 47 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by fax 6 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **The Second Eid In Detention**

This is the second Eid that has come and gone with the scholars and leaders of the nation still incarcerated behind bars. As we congratulate you on Eid and we ask Allah to accept our good deeds and to forgive our sins, we implore you not to forget your brothers, scholars and teachers who are still imprisoned. We appeal to you to remember these, your brothers who have been forcibly deprived of such celebrations while you are enjoying your Eid in the company of your loved ones. These Muslims have been imprisoned because of their concern and solidarity on behalf of reform and their ensuing steadfastness in preaching the truth.

The problem with the oppressors is that they are unable to understand that they are dealing with a new breed of opposition who will NOT accept the present dark realities, who will NOT accept less than Islam and have no concerns excepting pleasing Allah and following his last Prophet, Muhammed (PBUH) [Peace be Upon Him]. History has proved that terrorism only increases challenge, and oppression fuels determination.

The oppressors also fail to understand that in the past, people did not confront the regime because they feared it's strength. At the time, the regime avoided confrontation with scholars and also there was a great deal of vagueness as to whether the regime itself was legitimate or not. The vagueness surrounding the legitimacy of the regime has been removed once and for all because scholars have been humiliated and imprisoned with accusations of crimes related to causing public unrest. This will not change the determination of the people to challenge the might of the regime and the terror of their "Gestapo." The continued detentions and the imprisonment of scholars will continue to be the fuel of the awakening.

Youth Want More Than Protest

The manner in which the sit-in protests are now carried out indicates that such activities have become normal practice, and that the nation is now prepared to take a stronger line. The people who participated in the latest sit-ins felt that what they were doing had become normal and the fears which had been evident in the first protest have now disappeared. This was the aim of the protests in the first place — to overcome the barriers of fear and uncertainty.

The response to the previous protest was varied between different areas. In Qasim and al-Jawf it was excellent, reasonable in Riyadh and was limited in other towns. In all the towns and cities there was no confrontation or friction with the security personnel despite the massed presence of intelligence agents.

More Detention

The campaign of arrests continues for the ninth consecutive month. The Committee has been informed of ten arrests during the last two weeks. In Buraydah, the intelligence forces raided Salih al-Judayr's house. As al-Juday was not present in the house, his elderly father, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Jaday was taken handcuffed as a hostage until the return of his son. A day after the raid, Salih al-Juday gave himself up, but his father is still imprisoned! This is the third time Salh al-Juday has been arrested to be tortured and humiliated.

Also in Qasim, the following were arrested; Ibrahim al-Muhawwis, a student in the Shari'ah College; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Shughayran, an employee of Saudi Airlines; Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Salim and 'Abdallah al-Budayari from Buraydah. In the south, the following were arrested: Sa'id al-Shihri; Nasir al-Masri; 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Yamani; Ibrahim al-'Awji; Bandar Marwa'i and Husayn Marwa'i and Yusuf al-Bishri. The above arrests were accompanied by raids on houses, searches and confiscation of property as usual.

The Lecturers And The Intelligence Profession

In the university circles of Al Imam University, al-Qasim branch, a great resentment has spread due to a number of professors accepting the role of intelligence agents in addition to their academic work.

This new trend in the University caused astonishment among staff, students and locals, particularly as some of those involved had reached high academic position within the university. What is even more astonishing is that the principal in charge of registration and the head of the Koranic Studies department personally visited the headquarters of the intelligence department to give their commitments to ensure the silence of the students regarding the Committee, and other activities.

The principal of Shari'ah College and the head of the Islamic Studies Department committed themselves to investigating and interrogating students suspected of involvement in anti-government activities.

The Fires of Mina

The news of the fires which occurred on two occasions in Mina, and once in Arafat was relayed in the media, and the official statements mentioned that the second fire in Mina had destroyed 250,000 square meters of tents in Mina, which was approximately 25,000 tents. The official statement blamed the wind for the spread of the fire! The Committee has learned that the emergency services could not control the fire, and that the fire extinguished itself after all the tents had been razed. We were also informed that the number of deaths exceeds the five admitted to by the authorities, and the wounded were numbered at around seventy. The authorities are accusing a certain side of committing arson, and committees have been formed to investigate such claims. We thank Allah that the fire took place before the pilgrims had gathered in Mina thus restricting the fatalities. We ask you all to pray for the dead and their families. The emergency services low performance was caused by the large number of untrained intelligence personnel placed amongst them, which greatly reduced the efficiency of such services.

Samples of Chaos During Hajj

1) When a number of company owners providing guides for the pilgrims repeated the question as to the destiny of what is called the "emergency cash reserves" to the Minister in charge of pilgrims. The minister replied that the direction of the King required them not to ask such a question. The same answer was given by the previous minister. The emergency reserve is 20 per cent of the direct charges to the pilgrims for those companies providing guides and should return to those companies if not used. In fact, the Government takes this money each year. 2) A politicians of one of the large 'Islamic' countries made an agreement with various members of the ruling family to issue around 40,000 extra visas. This request was in order for him to sell visa to the citizens of his country for 6,000 Riyals each. 3) In return, that politician would attempt to improve the image of the Kingdom in his own country and to defend it on the international and Islamic front. 4) Prince Majid met with high ranking staff from the intelligence department to study the acquisition of buildings and houses to cater for a large number of foreign intelligence personnel, but to present these have been rented to ordinary pilgrims.

No. 48: Hajj, 'Crisis' With UK

MS1306085995 London CDLR Monitor in English 19 May 95 p 5

[Bulletin No. 48 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by fax 12 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **Your Right To Know — The Pilgrim and The Losing Regime**

Many of the pilgrims noticed a clear improvement during this Hajj season with regard to traffic movement and the movement of pilgrims, especially in the most crowded areas. The usual congestion was removed by implementing very simple measures. Regarding this change we have the following comments: 1) The regime was not praised for these improvements, but the Committee was, because the nation realises that if it was not for the successful campaign regarding this issue, the authorities would not have bothered to implement any changes. This indicates the collapse of the regime's credibility with the people. 2) This improvement highlights the importance of the nation's monitoring the government, because if the regime did not feel that they were under surveillance, they would not have attempted to improve their services. 3) The noticeable improvement in the transport services and the mobility of the pilgrims, especially in crowded areas, proves that the problem was not due to the huge number of pilgrims, as claimed by the regime. The problem was purely an administrative problem which could have easily been solved by proper planning and consultation with experienced professionals. This would all have happened earlier if the interests of the pilgrims had been the highest priority. 4) The minor improvement that took place is nothing more than a few limited services. The pilgrims did not receive any improved services from the time they requested their visas, to their return to their own countries. This would be impossible to achieve because it has to do with the actual structure of the regime and its procedures. This sort of thing cannot be improved through limited administrative modifications solely. However, we thank Allah that the pilgrimage was slightly easier this year, and we ask Allah to accept the pilgrims worship.

The Ambassador in Dilemma

Some unconfirmed reports circulated regarding a silent crisis between Britain and the Kingdom caused by representatives of the two countries. It is thought that this would lead to the sacking of one of the high ranking diplomats. Probably al Sa'ud will cover up the procedure with a transfer operation with the embassy in Germany. If this news is correct, as received by the Committee, the personality that is threatened by sacking was embroiled in a dangerous security case which would have led to his political destruction.

The Committee will withhold the details of the case until further confirmation is received.

"The Surgeon and The Physicist"

This is going to be the title of a book prepared by a Syrian journalist against al-Mas'ari, the Physicist, and al-Faqih, the Surgeon. The embassy paid a handsome sum to the journalist for him to write the book. The Syrian journalist, who heads the editing of one of the London Arabic newspapers, secretly gave the responsibility of writing the book to an Egyptian journalists and managed to laugh at both sides for less than a tenth of what he was paid.

On the other hand, one of the Arab journalists resident in Europe received a huge sum of money from Prince Nayif personally, for some information he obtained by meeting the Committee. The amusing aspect is that the information Nayif received and paid for has absolutely no connection to reality, and the simplicity of al Sa'ud will remain a rich, picking ground for cheats and conmen.

Al-Jawf Liberals Issue 15

The issue 15 of al-Jawf Liberals was published on the day of the Eid on 10 May, and contained news, as well as criticism of the regime.

More Arrests

With the direct instructions of Prince Nayif, a group of employees from the Institution of Enjoining Good Deeds and Forbidding the Haram (forbidden) in Jiddah were arrested: Kalaf Ibn-Rabi' al-Mutayri; Muhammad 'Awwash al-Mutayri; Husayn 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Mubaraki and Isma'il Bakhsh, as a punishment for the uncovering of the crime of one of the officers related to a high official of the Interior Ministry. In Riyadh, on Sunday, 7th May 1995, the following were arrested: Faysal al-Habbash and Husayn al-Yami, who were working for the Haramain Charity Organisation. This comes in the course of the war raged by the "Custodian" of the two Sacred Mosques on all the charitable organisations. In Khamis Mushayt, the Islamic Audio and Video Company was raided and the owner Ali Muhil al-'Utaybi and his employees arrested, all the products were confiscated, as is the norm.

CDLR Communique Views Judiciary, Shari'ah

MS1306093295 London CDLR Monitor in English 4 Jun 95 p 6

[Communique No. 36 issued of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR) — received by fax 13 June]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **The Flogging of a Doctor and the Farce of the "Independent" Judiciary**

A "so-called" security source has issued an official statement regarding the case of the flogging of an Egyptian doctor who had accused a school headmaster of raping his son. The statement claimed that the Saudi judiciary is free and independent, and that the flogging of the Egyptian doctor was but the carrying out of an appropriate and recognised punishment. The statement continued by denouncing the media campaign against the Kingdom.

In this communique we are not concerned with the fidelity of the accusation, and the details of the case. Rather our concern is with the claims that were made within the statement namely: the independence of the judiciary, the application of Shari'ah and the condemnation of the media campaign.

We see that it is our duty to confront the regime with the following facts:

(1) The statement was issued from a knowledgeable security source, rather than from the Ministry of Justice. This strongly indicates the domination of the judiciary by the security corps. It is also an indication that the regime considers that representation by the security executives, in the name of the judiciary, is a normal occurrence.

(2) The statement claims the independence of the judiciary, and the non-interference of the Government in judicial procedures. The fact, however, with regard to the Kingdom, is that the judiciary is actually one of the many branches of the Interior Ministry. This is amply explained by the human rights organisation 'Liberty", in their report, published in 1993, regarding human rights in the Kingdom. (attached to communique)

We take this opportunity to confirm that the authorities have total control over the judiciary, which includes the appointment, promotion, sacking and transfer of judges. It also includes interference in judicial procedures, such as in the implementation of sentences issued, and even their cancellation or delay.

(3) Shari'ah Law, which the regime claims to have implemented in this case, is far loftier and more honourable, than to be related to such unjust dealings. People with knowledge of Shari'ah who understand the actuality of the Kingdom's judiciary institutions are, in fact, fully aware that Shari'ah does not rule supreme in the Kingdom. It is true to say that the legitimate judiciary is confined to the Government's rules and regulations in a very limited area indeed. And, sadly, even that limited area is constantly and repeatedly interfered with.

(4) The punishments which the regime claims to be just, are only implemented on the weak and non-influential, whether they be Saudi nationals or foreigners from countries that do not protect their citizens. The higher echelon of princes, their cronies and the citizens of Western countries are all above the law and no accorded punishment would apply to them.

Many princes have killed, raped and assaulted people, and the victims,later forced to withdraw their accusations. On once occasion, Prince Salman said, "no punishment of al Sa'ud."

(5) In political cases, the judiciary descends to a level of complete subservience to the executive authorities. This statement comes from the practical experience of the official spokesman of the Committee, where the "legitimate" court issued a statement full of lies, on the directions of the Interior Ministry, which clearly contradicted even the investigation statements, results and coerced admissions. When the Committee's spokesman requested the appeal of his case, The Court of Appeal was forced, by the authorities, to approve the perjured statement, and the official spokesman was thereby prevented from presenting any further appeals and forced to sign a "cease and desist" to this effect. The regime has only recently committed yet another crime against the detained reformers, at the hands of the so-called "independent" judiciary. The details will be published in a later communique.

(6) If the authorities are serious regarding the implementation of the punishment applicable in cases of slander then the Committee requests the opening of the files of Shaykh Eydh al-Qarni' case. The Shaykh was slandered by one of the close associates of prince Khalid al-Faysal. When the Shaykh's innocence was proven, the Shaykh was forced to withdraw his case. The court case was "remotely controlled" by the telephone from the Prince's Office.

(7) Claims that our criticism is due to hatred or envy of the country is an extremely simple and convenient avoidance of the reality.

There is no possibility that we will cease our campaign unless justice, the implementation of Shari'ah, the acknowledgment of mistakes and genuine attempts to rectify them, are made.

London, Sunday 4 June

Yemen

Prime Minister Calls Salih's Saudi Visit 'Excellent'

LD1206172995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 12 Jun (SPA) — Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani has described Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as excellent. He said that it was the culmination of the efforts made to restore relations between the two brotherly countries.

In a statement to the SPA, 'Abd-al-Ghani hailed the joint statement issued at the end of Salih's visit and the agreement on efforts to remove all the obstacles that obstruct trade, investment, and transport between the two countries.

He said: The result of the summit between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother President Salih, and the joint statement issued as a result, aimed at establishing strong bases for relations between the two brotherly countries.

He commended the blessing of the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] ministerial council of the result of the brotherly meeting between the two countries' leaders and said this indicated that there was a new perception regarding the GCC states relations with Yemen that would lead to the opening of new prospects of cooperation between them to the benefit of the peoples of the Arabian peninsula.

He stressed the role of the Saudi Arabia and Yemen in removing the blemishes in Arab relations, reassessing these relations, and restoring Arab solidarity to its previous state. He expressed optimism about the new role undertaken by the Arab nation that is in its interest.

Regarding Saudi investment in Yemen, the Yemeni prime minister stressed that his country would offer every concession and facility to Saudi businessmen to invest in Yemen, pointing out the existence of joint capital investments in the two countries and cooperation between the private sectors in Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Regarding the movement of individuals, labor, and commodities between the two countries, 'Abd-al-Ghani said: This aspect constitutes a positive element in strengthening economic cooperation, in so far as surplus Yemeni agricultural and industrial products will find markets in Saudi Arabia, and Saudi industrial products will find markets in Yemen.

Replying to a question about the consequences of the visit on Yemeni economic conditions, the Yemeni prime minister said "the return of Saudi-Yemeni relations to their normal course will have a positive effect on the economic side."

He announced that the meeting of the two sides would begin tomorrow. The Saudi side is led by Ibrahim al-'Anqari, his excellency the special adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the Yemeni side is led by 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-jammal, deputy prime minister and planning minister. He added that the ministerial committee, which was formed according to the memorandum of understanding, would begin its work during next week. Among its tasks is to strengthen the relations of cooperation between the two countries in all economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

'Abd-al-Ghani hailed the achievements of the Saudi-Yemeni coordination council accomplished in Yemen and said "it had accomplished a lot that we cherish and are proud of."

He noted that the reemergence of the council would be through mutual understanding between the two countries, if the need arises. Concerning the media cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the Yemeni prime minister expressed his optimism that great media cooperation would materialize, alluding to the continuous contacts between the Ministries of Information in both countries for coordination and cooperation in the various information fields.

Al-Iryani Briefs Envoys on Salih-Fahd Summit

JN1206174795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the ambassadors of the European countries to the country this morning. He discussed with them bilateral relations and briefed them on the positive results of the Yemeni-Saudi summit.

The meeting was attended by brother Ambassador Muhammad Hazza', chief of the European Desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Ex-President Hails 'Relaxation' in Saudi Ties

MM0906154595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jun 95 p 5

[Interview with former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Husayn] In the context of your view of the future as regards improving conditions in Yemen and the need to rectify relations with neighboring states, what is your first impression of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Muhammad] Without doubt the meeting between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih took place at the right time with a view to clarifying matters as regards the special relations between the two countries, which should be more distinct that any other relations in the region due to the geographical factor and the common interests of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples. So the meeting held recently in Jeddah is a major step and a kind of relaxation in the region's interests. This is in addition to the impact at the people's level, which is represented in citizens' satisfaction, especially as President 'Ali Salih's visit was preceded by the signing of a "memorandum of understanding" and the convening of a number of committees concerned with the various cooperation issues.

My first impression of the Saudi-Yemeni meeting is that it will have an impact on the regional and bilateral situation and will lead to further relaxation in Yemeni-Arab and Yemeni-international relations. We bless this meeting and expect relations to develop in a manner compatible with the desired level of bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Do you expect further relaxation in Yemen's relations with the Western states, especially as U.S. intelligence has put Yemen among its priorities in the region recently?

[Muhammad] I believe that improving Yemen's relations with neighboring states would have a great positive impact and secure a greater degree of Yemeni-Western understanding and cooperation, in addition to the U.S. interest in working in investment spheres in Yemen. That requires securing the element of security and stability in order to ensure that Yemen is not going to suffer further shocks or confrontations as happened in the past and is happening now in some of the Arab states suffering from related problems.

[Abu-Husayn] But the situation in Aden is still unstable, and there are inauspicious signs represented in the fact that southerners see northerners as "occupiers" and northerners see southerners as "secessionists." How can these antiunity feelings be eliminated?

[Muhammad] Aden is the only city in Yemen that reflects and embodies the concept and spirit of Yemeni unity and constantly nourishes its national pulse throughout history. It happened during the British occupation and after the union. Aden also accommodates all Yemenis. All sons of the north, south, west, and east live in it.

Thus we call on the government in Yemen to pay further attention to Aden, solve its problems, look after its people, renew its facilities, provide the services and food commodities it needs, contribute to tackling the problem of high prices, and turn this city into a free trade zone from which all Yemeni people would benefit. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What is your role in reinforcing national unity and dialogue?

[Muhammad] I am in constant touch with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, all the Yemeni parties, and all the national forces in order to establish national unity and eliminate the effects of the war. This is a reality for which we must work, whatever the difficulties, in order to achieve national accord and heal the wounds of the past. Because Yemen has suffered a great deal from the calamities of wars, and it is now time to focus on developing the country, solving security problems, and leading the country to safety.

[Abu-Husayn] Why do you not return to Yemen?

[Muhammad] My return is inevitable. It will take place at the right time. There is no problem in this connection. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Praises Saddam's 'Courageous' Premiership

JN1006112495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 May 95 p 3

[Interview with Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by 'Ali 'Awdah Hafiz; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hafiz] A year has passed since leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has assumed the premiership. What effect has it had on the work methods and programs of the different government departments as well as the performances of the ministers, and what direct benefit have they all gained from the leader's knowledge?

[Ramadan] The assumption of the premiership by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has been very essential. And, I think I am not wrong in saying that it should have taken place even earlier. This is because we are going through a delicate phase which affects all of our people and the future of our nation and facing the most savage and overwhelming aggression in the history of mankind by the most despotic and domineering force in the universe in which Iraq has fought alone on behalf of the nation. Iraq, and therefore the Iraqi people and family have confronted this aggression with all its chapters. Thus, under such conditions the country's executive authority, which is the linking bridge with the people and society, cannot but be in the hands of the highest legislative authority represented by the historical symbol and top leader, Saddam Husayn.

Any talk about developing work methods and improving performance would have been useless without the leader being in charge of the premiership. This is because the situation is not normal, the resources are limited, and the current phase requires extraordinary, frank, and courageous methods in tackling the country's affairs. All this would not have been achieved by the executive authority without the leader being in charge of the premiership, although this also means extra work and effort for the leader over and above his other well-known important tasks. But the need for this role should not pose an obstacle to any other responsibility or duty. In my opinion, this role has been necessary long before this date by at least one or two years.

We in the cabinet, are not the only ones who are working. Everyone now is aware of the new responsibility and the new work formula by their impact on the work methods of the different government departments and the important decrees which are being issued. As is the case all over the world, some measures have achieved their targets and others have not. Some also have achieved limited results and others medium or big results. But the main thing is that the work mechanism has continued to function with high tempo from the summit to the base. I cannot say that all government departments have disposed of themselves equally without any pluses or minuses, but I am certain that progress and improved performance have been general, with a difference of course between one position and another and one ministry and another. This is natural in all walks of life. At the same time, we must also say that our work within the cabinet has still not reached the level and expectations of the guidelines which the leader has issued at these cabinet meetings, which averaged one and sometimes two meetings a week, in addition to the long hours of discussions and the various topics which are raised. The leader president, may God preserve and protect him, is always first to initiate ideas for discussion with the view to enhancing our people's capabilities in confronting the forces of aggression and facing the conspiracy.

Therefore, I feel that there has been a great improvement and accomplishment. I do not claim that what we have achieved is up to the level of our ambitions, because our ambitions will always be greater than anything we achieve, but what has been achieved in terms of improved performance and productivity and the introduction of new work methods is very big indeed. In fact, these great results provide a solid base for the second year's work program.

[Hafiz] How does your excellency view what has been achieved during the counteroffensive on aggression and under the continuation of the conditions of the conspiracy and blockade against Iraq, in comparison with what has been achieved after the 30-state aggression; and how do you also view Iraq's future?

[Ramadan] This year has been marked by the cabinet's steady performance under the leader president, who, on many occasions, has followed the cabinet's tasks in great detail to ensure accurate and proper implementation and to assess the level of preparation and readiness by all workers, especially the ministers. This year also, the cabinet and the other institutions — whether party, popular, or professional organizations — have played a major role in enlightening the people about the nature of the phase and the intentions of the aggression and aggressors, headed by the United States and its collaborators. One indication that the enlightening role has been even more effective than at any previous time is the way in which our people, even after five years of blockade, have rejected the despicable American Rresolution 986. This rejection has not been emotional, but mature based on real awareness of the ill intentions of the evil ones, again despite our harsh living conditions.

But faith, which is deeply rooted in the heart and spirit of the Iraqi citizen, will remain stronger than all these conditions.

[Hafiz] It is appropriate in this meeting with your excellency to raise the issue of the blockade, which is the Iraqi people's main preoccupation, especially after Iraq has cooperated with the United Nations and fulfilled all of its obligations under the Security Council resolutions. All that the Security Council has to do now is also fulfill its obligations by implementing Paragraph 22 of Clause C of Resolution 687. But the enemies have proposed the American Resolution 986, which our people have rejected, in an attempt to circumvent Paragraph 22 and delay its implementation. How do you evaluate the Security Council's handling of its obligations to lift the blockade in light of the U.S. Administration's hegemony and domination, and how do you view our people's steadfastness and solidarity in their efforts to erode and break up the blockade?

[Ramadan] For some time now Iraq's relationship with the Security Council has been characterized by cooperation, as the members themselves have admitted, particularly in fulfilling its obligations despite their unfairness and the injustice which is being done to the Iraqi people and whenever the opportunity arises under U.S. monopoly and domination of the world through the UN Security Council.

The majority of states are now clearly and absolutely convinced that Iraq has fulfilled its obligations and that it is up to the Security Council to reciprocate by implementing Paragraph 22 of Clause C of Resolution 687 in full without any adjustments or conditions.

This conviction is not recent, but has been in existence for almost one year. When the United States realized that this conviction is held by the majority of the Security Council member states, the world nations, and the world public, it came up with Resolution 986. However, our people understood the game and eliminated it completely. There is also full conviction among all countries, with the exception of the United States, that our rejection of the resolution was proper. The mean motives behind that resolution are now clear to the overwhelming majority of world nations also.

We will continue the course of cooperation. But this does not mean that we will continue forever. The remaining period and time for lifting the blockade must not be long. Its first step should be to lift the blockade immediately and fully through implementation of Paragraph 22 within a short and acceptable period of time. Our cooperation cannot go on forever or without anything in return.

[Hafiz] What are the work priorities in the next phase, and on what will we concentrate in the future struggle and reconstruction campaigns?

[Ramadan] According to the cabinet's programs and the leader president's directives, the work priorities in the present and future phases will be to concentrate on the agricultural sector and the industrial sector, especially the part which goes into developing the agricultural sector. This is why the government is investing large sums. In fact, we have exceeded the allocations for new projects by sanctioning more for opening canals and carrying out irrigation and reclamation projects involving billions of dinars. It can be said that all human and material resources are being devoted to carrying out this vital and important program. If we continue with this program for the next two years, it will result in a vast qualitative improvement in the cabinet's performance in the agricultural field, especially in the reclamation of vast lands and their conversion from rainfall to irrigated areas. Shortage of equipment and material supplies will not be a problem, because the ideal way in which the leader is steering the cabinet will help overcome all obstacles and limit this shortage, if not reduce it to nil. The proof is that gigantic projects have already been accomplished under these conditions, beginning with the Saddam River and other rivers.

The projects which are currently being implemented, including the irrigation projects, the regulation of river courses, and the reclamation of lands are bigger than those which were implemented in the past when we had more and better equipment. Of course, had we been able to overcome the equipment problem, the work would have been a great deal easier. However, I am confident that the agricultural sector will develop tremendously and that the current serious agricultural effort under the blockade will show great future results.

[Hafiz] Indonesia, which you have visited recently, has played a major role in support of lifting the blockade. What have you agreed on and will there be cooperation agreements with Indonesia?

[Ramadan] I view the results, effects, and significance of this visit from a future perspective rather than from the Indonesian position vis-a-vis the blockade. This is because Indonesia is an important Islamic and OPEC state and a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement. There is nothing to mar its relations with Iraq. It is sufficient that we take pride in the Indonesian people's attitude toward Iraq. I do not exaggerate when I say that this attitude is identical to the sentiments existing within the Arab sphere. The ordinary Indonesian citizen knows Iraq, harbors every affection for it, and considers leader Saddam Husayn a great figure. Moreover, Indonesia with its population of 200 million is heading toward a great future with its industrial, agricultural, and technological base. Under present plans, Indonesia hopes to attain the level of a strong industrial power. Perhaps, it is due to all this that Iraq attaches great importance to establishing strong relations with states such as Indonesia.

Our visit was not just confined to the discussion of Indonesia's role and membership in the UN Security Council in 1995 and 1996 and the enhancement of this role, but went beyond that to forging a political relationship. All the hopes we entertained on the basis of existing capabilities and circumstances had been fulfilled with good if not better results than what we had expected. Our enthusiasm was not less than the response we got from other states under the current international situation we are experiencing. As far as Indonesia is concerned, we succeeded in cooperating within the framework of economic agreements in all fields. We signed agreements whose implementation requires proper management and follow-up work at the level of a ministerial committee. The Indonesian side approved such a committee. But, this ministerial committee will also not be able to fully implement its work without the support of continuous meetings at a high-level between the two countries. Therefore, the next phase will witness several meetings, including a visit by the Indonesian vice president to Iraq soon. There will also be an exchange of visits between competent ministers. Furthermore, we did not only discuss and agree on certain basic ideas for cooperation on the short and long-term levels, but also entered into the work specifics of many executive steps regarding future commercial and industrial cooperation and actually signed contracts. The contracts generally deal with the commodities which are included in the ration card. Indonesia will supply these commodities on the basis that payment will be deferred until the lifting of the blockade. This will apply to items which are produced in Indonesia and those which it can ensure from other sources.

Finally, I would like to say that I am optimistic about future cooperation with this great friendly Muslim country. It is our duty to follow up on the steps which have been taken, because this will be of great benefit to both sides, not just now but also in the future.

Concluding his interview, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: I am more optimistic about the possibility of ensuring the requirements for our people's steadfastness through the extension of vital bridges between the authority and the people, the leadership and the masses, and the party and society. It is a network of humane relationship and interaction. I believe that the second year of the leader president's task at the head of the cabinet will be marked by even better performance. God willing, it will be a decisive year for overcoming crises and showing serious signs toward firm implementation of Paragraph 22. Our role will be more effective in the sphere of foreign action, whether on the political or practical levels. This will further strengthen Iraq's national and humanitarian role — an eternal role which cannot be affected by plots — and the reason is that leader struggler and President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, is leading his people to the shores of security, prosperity, and peace.

Baghdad Official Calls Zirconium Seizure 'Set Up'

NC0906144795 Paris AFP in English
1410 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 9 (AFP) — An Iraqi official on Friday [9 June] accused Washington of mounting a sting operation on the smuggling of zirconium to imply that Baghdad was trying to obtain nuclear weapons in violation of UN sanctions.

US officials in New York on Thursday said that three men had been arrested in an operation and charged with trying to export to Iraq nearly eight tonnes of zirconium apparantly stolen from the former Soviet Union.

But Salah Mukhtar, chief editor of the government newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah, said: "Iraq is in no way involved in this affair which is ridiculous and a complete set-up."

"Trying to implicate Iraq in such an affair is aimed at casting doubt on Baghdad's commitment to respecting UN Security Council resolutions," added Mukhtar, also head of the Iraqi government organisation for peace, friendship and solidarity.

In the largest seizure of nuclear-related material in US history, undercover agents posing as arms dealers working on behalf of Iraq set up the sting operation after they were tipped off that the men were trying to sell the zirconium on the black market, a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent said.

The suspects were arrested and charged with trying to export zirconium in violation of trade sanctions against Iraq, US authorities said.

"These stories are aimed at influencing international opinion to prevent the lifting of the embargo imposed by the United Nations" on Baghdad after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Mukhtar said.

"We are used to these methods, to which the American administrations resorts before each UN review of the sanctions regime," he added.

Zirconium, a metallic chemical element, is used in the safety cladding of nuclear fuel rods in reactors and can also be used to make plutonium.

Paper Decries 'Cheap' U.S. Move

JN1206165995 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 10 Jun 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Out of Utter Bankruptcy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The dear readers may recall that last March, the London-based newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES published a report on the disappearance in Athens of an Iraqi nuclear scientist, Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas Hamzah after contacting the newspaper and providing it with two documents on the existence of a secret Iraqi nuclear program. The newspaper published the two documents in that report and noted that it will publish two more documents once Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas delivers them himself.

THE SUNDAY TIMES also reported that Mrs. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas contacted the paper from Athens to inform it that Iraqi Intelligence has kidnapped her husband and that she has found one of his shoes near the telephone booth next to the building where they live.

The readers also recall how the Western media reported on the story and how the virtuous lady, Albright, the representative of the U.S. Administration at the Security Council, and the other head of the snake, Sir David Hannay, Britain's representative at the Security Council, dealt with this fabricated story in the Security Council debate during the periodic review of the oil sanctions imposed on Iraq.

When Iraqi media published copies of the forged documents, Mr. Zifferero, the official in charge of the Iraqi nuclear program at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], expressed doubts about the story of THE SUNDAY TIMES despite the big pressure exerted on him and on the IAEA by the U.S. and British administrations. Both administrations urged him to verify the secret Iraqi nuclear program and the information leaked by Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas.

Despite the assertion of the competent Iraqi authorities that the story was fabricated from the beginning to the end, the Americans and British, however, did not want to close the issue because their mean methods which aim at maintaining the siege on Iraq will be exposed.

Iraq informed them of the following:

1. Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas was employed by the Iraqi nuclear energy organization and retired in 1990, before the aggression against Iraq. He was a businessman who sometimes travelled outside Iraq because of the nature of his work.

2. Mrs. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas did not leave Iraq for Athens and she is still in Iraq.

3. Khadir's sons are studying in Iraq. One of his sons is a graduate student, the other is a student at the fifth preparatory class, and the third is in the elementary grades.

In spite of this, the IAEA asked for a meeting with the wife of Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas, and promised to close this subject after the meeting. An IAEA representative was sent for this purpose, and he met with her and asked her some questions. After he was sure that she is the wife of Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas, and that the whole report published by THE SUNDAY TIMES is a forgery and fabrication, he promised to close the file on this story.

The IAEA then returned to inquire about Dr. Khadir 'Abd-al-'Abbas and asked for additional information about him. After they got what they wanted, they said that this subject is over and they will present a report on it to the Security Council within two weeks.

Soon after this fabricated story was over, a new story emerged. The FBI announced yesterday that it seized 7 tonnes of zirconium in an operation it described as the largest seizure by the U.S. Administration of materials that are used in the nuclear industry.

U.S. officials held a news conference in New York in which they said the smugglers had received the materials from Ukraine, and that the FBI agents posed as men working for the Iraqi Government in order to set a trap for them.

The story as presented by the U.S. officials began more than a year ago after U.S. security officials tempted the smugglers (who are of Greek origin and have offices in New York) with money. They managed to transport this quantity of zirconium from Ukraine to New York and put it in storage at Kennedy Airport under the supervision of U.S. security men in preparation for transporting this material to Cyprus, but they did not ship it to Cyprus and decided to announce the operation now.

The U.S. and British press immediately reported the news and began to speak about secret Iraqi nuclear projects and how Iraq cannot be trusted in spite of all the achievements of the inspection teams and the permanent supervision system of which Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, is proud. Likewise, the Washington press immediately began to say that this operation proves right U.S. President Bill Clinton's warnings that curbing smuggling and trading with nuclear materials should be given a priority in U.S. foreign policy.

One does not need much thinking to arrive at Clinton's objectives behind the timing of the announcement on the discovery of this operation. He has involved Iraq's name in a cheap attempt to achieve two objectives. First, he wants to stir up a great noise to mislead the UN Security Council, which will convene on 19 June to review the Iraqi oil embargo and listen to Rolf Ekeus' semiannual report. The second objective is to achieve foreign policy successes and demonstrate his keenness on pursuing smugglers of materials used in the nuclear industry. He also wants to polish his image after receiving much criticism from his own party and the opposition Republican Party for his foreign policy failures and his irresoluteness.

Perhaps what is most ridiculous about this president, who leads the strongest power in the world, is his involvement in an extremely cheap and exposed attempt to exploit the American marines' rescue of the U.S. pilot whose plane was downed in Bosnia-Herzergovina a week ago, and who was at first considered missing in action.

What did Clinton do?

He appeared at a news conference to announce to the American people the good news of finding the pilot alive. Afterwards, he phoned the pilot and his family. The U.S. television networks highlighted this great event every hour. This was followed by a flood of commentaries by seasoned editors and commentators, all with one theme: Clinton's Bosnian policy is correct and does not lead to losses of American lives. What has happened proves that.

As for the commentators who "disagree" with Clinton, they say that Clinton needed such a development to bolster his foreign policy status. They say that the recovery of the pilot alive helped him greatly and silenced his Republican opposition, at least for a while.

This is the inside of the U.S. policy. Some tendentious people accuse the Iraqis of being unable to understand U.S. policy and decipher its mysteries and secrets. They ignore the fact that the Iraqis are among the most politically aware-people and have exceptional analytical and judgment abilities. Perhaps the simplest and most accurate description of Clinton was made by an 80-year-old Iraqi woman, who said of him: "He wants to be loved rather than talented." Then she said: "He can be neither."

Let the U.S. research centers, especially those specializing in polishing presidential candidates, including President Clinton, study this observation by the 80-year-old woman, who did not finish elementary school. They may benefit from it.

PUK Claims KDP Violates Truce, Shells Areas

NC1106160095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the renewal of the truce between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], the KDP forces directed concentrated artillery fire at the [place name indistinct] area on 10 June. Four people were martyred and six others were injured.

It is worth noting that this is the second time that the KDP has violated the declared truce between the PUK and KDP. KDP rocket launchers pounded the [place name indistinct] complex at 0200 on 10 June. The bombardment caused no casualties.

PUK Commentary Says KDP Rejects Direct Dialogue

NC1106174195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Truce and dialogue are the best ways to achieve peace between disputing parties. It is only natural that a truce will not succeed unless it is reached through a direct dialogue between the disputing parties. The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], one of the two disputing parties in Kurdistan, agreed in principle to a truce but it has rejected direct dialogue, thus blocking the most important path to peace and normality.

Even after the truce, the KDP did all it could to harm the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and attacked its forces in several areas, such as Balisan, (Baliyan), and (Shadardan.) It also continued to reinforce its positions and reorganize its forces. These practices clearly prove that the KDP views the truce as a means for achieving narrow-minded party goals; this places a stumbling block in the way of peace. The KDP has agreed to the principle of the truce only in order to achieve its own goals.

The PUK, on the contrary, did not reject the truce and soon after it was reached, hastened to call for a direct dialogue with the KDP. Believing that direct dialogue is a civilized political method for resolving problems and differences, a PUK delegation traveled to the Islamic Republic of Iran to hold direct talks and negotiations with the KDP delegation, but the KDP delegation refused. Moreover, the PUK has supported all peaceful overtures and proposals that the other Kurdish parties offered during the truce.

In his historic speech on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PUK, Jalal Talabani asked the KDP to agree on either the Paris agreement or the strategic agreement between the PUK and KDP and the Kurdistan parliament decisions as a way to peace. But the KDP took no notice of the PUK's peaceful, constructive stance and persisted with its claims that Irbil is the most knotty problem in the normalization process. It ignored the fact that the Irbil issue is an effect, not the cause.

Convinced of the importance of continuing the democratic process in Kurdistan and of saving the Kurdish Parliament and government from collapse, the PUK continued to put forward peaceful plans and overtures. The latest PUK plan is a new, integrated one that, if accepted by the KDP, could restore accord to the Kurdish national ranks and safeguard the democratic experiment in Kurdistan.

We hope that the PUK's new plan or peace plans put forth by any party will usher in a new stage that will bring closer the views of the two parties and pave the way for a serious and unconditional dialogue that will be attended by other Kurdish parties too. Such a dialogue would help to save our democracy, achievements, and gains.

SAIRI Continuing Anti-Saddam Struggle From Tehran

LD1306105595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0751 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, 13 Jun (KUNA) — Muhammad Bakir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has disclosed that he has not received an official request from Iran asking him to stop or reduce the Assembly's political and military activities. He insisted, at the same time, that the Iraqi opposition and the Iraqi people are determined to escalate their struggle until the Saddam Husayn regime is toppled.

Al-Hakim added, in an exclusive interview with KUNA, the Kuwaiti news agency, at his official residence in Tehran, that he is not expecting the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring pressure to bear on the SAIRI "which is an alliance between Muslim figures and factions" to force it to stop its jihad activities against the Saddam Husayn regime.

Al-Hakim pointed out, however, that the SAIRI's activities "are in line with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with international norms pertinent to political activities... as well as with universal ethics." Al-Hakim went on to say: "We see no contradiction between the interests of the Iraqi people, for which we have been striving, and the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian people." Al-Hakim asserted, nonetheless, that he cannot see a real rapprochement in Iranian-Iraqi relations, and he affirmed that the two countries have a number of very complicated issues that will require long negotiations to resolve.

He added that the SAIRI's Central Council [Shura] recently made a comprehensive evaluation of the relations between Iran and Iraq "using our own accurate reports... we will not, however, notice a real development in their relations as long as Iraq is still hampering the implementation of Resolution 598 which Iran insists must be implemented." Al-Hakim noted, moreover, that visits [between Iraqi and Iranian officials] do not necessarily mean there is an improvement in their relations as long as there are real problems between the two countries which Iran must first resolve, including the problem of the Iranian prisoners [in Iraq] and the dispute over boundaries. Al-Hakim reminded people of the fact that Iraq and Iran retained their diplomatic relations for the first six and half years during their eight-year long war.

Replying to a question, al-Hakim insisted that he has not opened talks for an alternative refuge with any other state or any other party in anticipation of an unexpected improvement in relations between Iraq and Iran, and he asserted that the Iraqi opposition is well respected in the region and in the world and has good relations with official and unofficial parties. [passage omitted]

Regarding the economic situation, al-Hakim said that he has confirmed information indicating that the [Iraqi] regime has been selling oil worth between $1 billion and $1.5 billion annually via Jordan and Turkey as well as a number of minerals and sulphur. It has spent the revenues on its thugs, unable to solve Iraq's economic problems for which public opinion holds the regime responsible.

Regarding the situation of the people [in Iraq], al-Hakim affirmed that the struggle continues in the southern areas despite the brutal actions perpetrated by the regime to quell the people's uprising there. He pointed out that the events that took place in Ramadi last month reflected the spread of popular dismay into the central areas where the majority of the people are Sunni. Al-Hakim expects explosive popular uprisings to take place in other areas, particularly in the towns of Samarra, Mosul, and Tikrit where the situation has become tense, as recent reports have indicated. [passage omitted]

Al-Hakim stressed that the political stance of the State of Kuwait is correct and ethical for it has distinguished between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi regime despite the difficulties during the Iraqi regime's aggression and afterward. Al-Hakim urged the State of Kuwait and its people to continue its aid, an act which could prevent misery and calamities befalling nations. [passage omitted]

Concerning the creation of an Iraqi government in exile, al-Hakim reiterated that such an idea has been discussed before but was found to be inappropriate under current circumstances. On the in-fighting between the Kurds in northern Iraq, al-Hakim reiterated that such in-fighting is detrimental to the opposition, its unity and authority. He pointed out, however, that he received yesterday two proposals, one from the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the other one from the Kurdistan Unity Party, aimed at reaching a comprehensive reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Al-Hakim concluded his interview by reiterating the need for cohesion between the Iraqi people and the Iraqi army. "The latter has been sending many calls and messages which indicate its readiness to cooperate with a populist movement to overthrow the regime," he insisted.

Minister Sees Return of 'Almost All' of Golan

TA1306102695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that Israel will eventually have to return almost all of the Golan Heights in order to attain a peace agreement with Syria. Shohat stressed that any decision on the matter would be brought before the public in a national referendum and expressed his confidence that once an agreement with the Syrians is completed, it would win the support of a majority of the public.

Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar reports that Minister Shohat was speaking to high school students in Tel Aviv.

Weizman Says al-Asad Must Hold Direct Talks

TA1106150395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman toured Qiryat Shemona today. During the visit, Weizman called on Syrian President al-Asad to meet with Yitzhaq Rabin in order to advance the peace process. Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, reports:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Asked whether he, too, shares the optimism regarding the negotiations with Syria, President Weizman answered that he is a realist. Weizman added that he does not have precise information regarding the negotiations. In his remarks, Weizman implicitly criticized al-Asad:

[Weizman] I think the main problem is that it is high time for the Syrian president, if he sincerely desires peace, to start speaking directly with Israeli leaders rather than doing this via ambassadors, military men, or representatives of the United States, a country which I respect and which helped us at Camp David as well. Ultimately, however, the Syrian president must stop regarding us as some contaminated party with whom he cannot associate. He must meet directly with the prime minister, the foreign minister, or any other official chosen by the Israeli Government for this purpose. He cannot tell us with whom he agrees to meet.

[Horowitz] Regarding the referendum issue: There is a debate among the public on whether to hold the referendum now or only after the negotiations warm up.

[Weizman] I think the Israeli public should decide on the basis of a plan. The public will have to decide on a specific plan once such a plan is presented to it. [end recording]

Optimism Over Change in Syrian Tone Questioned

TA1106143895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jun 95 p B1

[Commentary by Tzvi Bar'el: "Christopher's Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Christopher's present visit is surrounded by a sort of fragrant aura, as though this time something is really happening. A senior U.S. official was very impressed by the positive atmosphere in Syria, and Christopher himself said that "we now have an opportunity to enter a new and important stage on the Syrian track."

This is not the first time the United States seems to be embracing a new public approach. No more talk about a long, tiring, difficult, and excruciating process; no recourse to the recurring quote from James Baker's days: "The United States cannot want peace more than the sides themselves do." Now we can see President Clinton personally calling al-Asad and later informing Rabin that the Syrian president expressed to him his commitment to the peace process and that he found his tone to be positive.

A senior U.S. source says the change in tone is no coincidence. "It is true that Syria has not presented us with any facts indicating a new direction or breakthrough. Syria's substantive attitude has not changed. It is committed to the peace process on the strategic level but is unwilling to compromise on details. We are starting now from precisely the same point at which we stopped half a year ago, when the chiefs of staff talks were cut off. We are holding talks about hypothetical situations and trying to ascertain Syria's position regarding each of these situations. This is a negotiations tactic we proposed a year ago, but Syria was totally opposed to it at the time. Now it is willing to partially embrace this method, but it is still unwilling to go into details. For our part, we have decided to change our public relations approach: Instead of being cautious and reserved all the time, we passed the onus of responsibility to the sides in the hope that neither will want to hinder the negotiations. Perhaps this will create a positive momentum."

It looks as though the improvement in the U.S. public tactics is impressing Israel, however, more than Syria. The search for positive nuances on the Syrian side, which is the basis for the U.S. optimism, is reminiscent of last year's "signals" affair. How many hopes were attached to the interview given by Faruq al-Shar' to Israel Television's Ehud Ya'ari? How many commentaries were written about Syrian television's coverage or noncoverage of the agreements with the Palestinians and Jordan? Does anybody remember the visit by an Israeli Arab delegation to Syria?

Last Friday, on the eve of Christopher's visit to Damascus and during Rabin's meeting with President Mubarak, Syrian Radio opened its newscast with a report on Rabin's statement that united Jerusalem will remain Israel's eternal capital. Whereas most Arab radio reports highlighted Rabin's invitation to the Syrian president and his willingness to meet al-Asad wherever the latter wants, Syrian Radio did not even mention this. The second item on the same newscast did not miss an opportunity to ridicule Israel's power: A brush fire caused an electricity outage throughout the entire country. The third item briefly mentioned that Rabin had arrived in Egypt on a visit.

In a joint news conference with Mubarak in Damascus last week, al-Asad did not deviate from Syria's basic position. He agreed to say that "an understanding was reached concerning meanings," whatever the meaning of this understanding is. Meanwhile, the Syrian press criticized King Husayn's decision to prevent a conference of opposition parties that wanted to express their opposition to the normalization process with Israel.

These examples are not meant to throw cold water on the U.S. and Israeli euphoria. If the optimism index hinges on Syrian statements, all we can say is that the latter also supplies plenty of ammunition to those who do not believe Syria wants peace. In any case, evaluating the process merely on the basis of these statements could be misleading.

"Al-Asad has still not reached the conclusion that he has a message to deliver to the Syrian public." This is how one Syrian journalist interprets Syrian media behavior. "He still has nothing for which to prepare Syrian public opinion. The Syrian achievements must be crystal clear. They must satisfy Syrian honor, security, and power. They must be something that Syrian television can broadcast without recourse to verbal acrobatics about documents most of the public does not understand or hollow statements. Until al- Asad achieves this, people will have to settle for interpreting the Syrian press."

Netanyahu on Golan, Agreement With Palestinians

MS1306132795 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 13 Jun 95 p 12

[Report on interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of Likud Party, by Anton La Guardia: "A Hawk In Waiting Worries Middle East Peacemakers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Arab nations are being told by the United States and the Israeli government that they should grab the chance for peace before the hardline Binyamin Netanyahu leader of the opposition Likud party, has a chance of coming to power in next year's general election.

According to Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, President al-Asad of Syria "has made very clear that in his mind this is a period when we must make progress because of the election calendar".

Israeli ministers want to make the Palestinian autonomy agreement "irreversible" by expanding self-rule from the enclaves of Gaza and Jericho to the rest of the West Bank.

Mr Netanyahu accuses the government of leading the country towards war, rather than peace. He says the army's planned "redeployment" from the West Bank would create a base for Islamic terrorism, "the second biggest after Iran".

Withdrawing from the Golan Heights in return for peace with Syria would merely invite a future attack, he says.

"The Golan Heights have been absolutely quiet because of the solid fact, which al-Asad recognises, that as long as the Israeli army and artillery are within spitting distance of Damascus, he does not have an option of war," he told The Daily Telegraph. But asked what he would do if he came to power, Mr Netanyahu becomes more evasive. The next election, he says, will effectively be a referendum on the Golan issue, and he will accept the verdict of the people.

The agreement with the Palestinians is a separate matter. "We keep international agreements, whether we like them or not. But we expect the other side to keep them too.

"The PLO has violated every line of the agreement. If we are elected we will see the situation on the ground and act accordingly." He said he would not talk with Yasir 'Arafat, head of the self-ruling Palestinian Authority. He would offer Palestinians a much narrower form of autonomy, that would not give them any control of security or territory.

Arabs would have to "re-adjust their expectations". But he concedes one point. "We will not re-enter Gaza on a permanent basis. 'Arafat can keep Gaza."

Mr Netanyahu, 45, made his name as a robust and articulate spokesman during the crisis over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. As deputy foreign minister, he would appear on television clutching his gas mask while Israel was attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles.

He spent part of his youth in America and served in an Israeli commando unit. He was chosen as party leader two years ago vote after the veteran former prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, was defeated in the 1992 election.

'Official' on French 'Role' in Peace Process

NC1106124695 Paris AFP in English 1226 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, June 11 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin travels to France late Sunday [11 June] for a two-day trip during which he will hold talks with French President Jacques Chirac and visit Israeli stands at a major air show.

He will be the fourth Middle East leader to hold talks with the new French president after his Egyptian, Lebanese and Kuwaiti counterparts, officials said.

On Monday Rabin will visit Israel's stands at the Bourget air show and hold talks with Chirac in the Elysee palace.

He is also due to meet his French counterpart Alain Juppe, Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and Defence Minister Charles Millon.

"The new leadership in France is much more sensitive to our security needs and we want to show that it has a role to play in the peace process and in drawing up a new Middle East," an official close to Rabin told AFP, asking to remain anonymous.

Rabin, who is also defence minister, is hoping to boost military exports to France through the Bourget show.

About 20 Israeli firms are taking part displaying Israel's most up-to-date technology including a model of its spy satellite Ofeq-3 which recently went into orbit.

Israel is hoping to nail down contracts for its air-to-ground missile Delilah-AR, pilotless Mazlat planes, as well as the Galaxy light aircraft co-produced with Russia.

In March 1994, former defence minister Francois Leotard relaunched military cooperation with Israel after a 27-year gap following an arms embargo placed on the country by ex-president Charles de Gaulle.

France was once the main arms supplier to Israel, but today remains only its third trading partner far behind Germany and Britain.

The trade surplus is heavily in France's favour. Israel bought a billion dollars' worth of goods from France in 1994, but registered sales of less than 600 million dollars.

Peres Discusses Mauritania, EU Trade Accord

TA1206173195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 12 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Madrid airport by Hayim Zissowitz on 12 June — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zissowitz] We now cross to Foreign Minister Peres in Madrid. Good day, sir.

[Peres] Good day.

[Zissowitz] You are in Madrid for various talks. You also had an unprecedented meeting today with the foreign minister of Mauritania, which is a Muslim state, a member of the Arab League, and its national language is Arabic. Will it be the next country to form diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Peres] First, the very fact that we had a public meeting already signifies ties. What the foreign minister told me is very interesting: He said that they are a Muslim state by accident, and that the one who suggested it to them was General de Gaulle. The purpose was to show that being a Muslim did not mean being against the rest of the world and against peace; quite the contrary. I was very impressed by his approach. We decided to start cooperating already. We have ideas on the setting up of formal relations and we will decide on it in the near future.

[Zissowitz] Does Mauritania has an influence on Arab states, the Palestinians, the Syrians?

[Peres] First, there are the 24-members of the Arab League. The time has come to disband the league of hatred and form a league of understanding. We have to go from country to country. We already have relations with 16 Muslim countries and we are interested in forming ties with all of them without exception. Our work is made up of small details.

[Zissowitz] Did he respond to the proposal I assume you raised with him, to set up diplomatic ties?

[Peres] Yes, he asked for time to consider in which form to do it.

[Zissowitz] Not full relations?

[Peres] I do not want to speculate. There are all sorts of ideas. We will look into it quietly, like the meeting itself, which was planned a month ago and was kept quiet. I hope we will continue to work quietly.

[Zissowitz] I would like to ask you about something else, the new trade agreement with the EU. I believe we are at the 11th hour.

[Peres] That is correct. Last night, I concluded an agreement with Spain on oranges, mandarins, and tuna, and the Spanish foreign minister telephoned Manuel Marin, who is in charge of the Middle East desk in the EC. He met with the Spanish prime minister today. We have full and total understanding on what should be done. They made a supreme effort to put it on the agenda. I spoke with the prime minister a few minutes ago....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] The EU debate is taking place today.

[Peres] No, the forum of European foreign ministers meet biannually, in mid-year and at the end of the year. Today is the mid-year meeting. The matter could have been settled long ago had we not raised so many problems.

[Zissowitz] When you say we, you mean Israeli ministers?

[Peres] Yes.

[Zissowitz] You mean the minister of industry and trade and the agriculture minister opposed the agreement?

[Peres] No, the agriculture minister was fine, he voted in favor. The industry and trade minister thought he could have it all, and we only lost time.

[Zissowitz] Does that opposition mean the agreement will be held up?

[Peres] I hope not, I hope it will be raised either today or at the end of the week. I started to say before that I spoke for a few minutes to the prime minister, who met today with the French premier, who also believes it should be concluded this week, and will put a supreme effort into it.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 12 June adds: "The prime minister and the defense minister has become personally involved in the efforts to bring about the approval of the new trade agreement with the EU. Prime Minister Rabin conferred in Paris with French Premier Juppe, and our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that the two men decided to try to get the agreement signed by the end of the month. Juppe asked Israel to reach a compromise on the disputed issues in the agricultural sphere, and the prime minister phoned Foreign Minister Peres in Madrid to discuss the issue. Rabin promised the French an answer by Friday."]

[Zissowitz] Mr. Peres, just one more thing. I know that you have other things in mind in Madrid.

[Peres] I am at the airport on my way home.

[Zissowitz] You have awaiting you lots of problems, including faction discipline. Three faction members want to raise a motion calling for a special majority to change the Golan Law.

[Peres] There is no third way, the only alternative is that of the Likud.

[Zissowitz] So what do you think about your faction colleagues who join the Third Way and call for dissolving the Knesset and holding early elections?

[Peres] They will have to vote according to the party platform. We have not violated the platform in any way.

[Zissowitz] What if they do not?

[Peres] They will not be loyal to their undertakings. One of them, I do not want to mention his name — who is not a Knesset member — accused me of all sorts of things. He does not realize that he has adopted not only the Likud ideology but also its demagoguery. I do not intend to discuss anything but the truth. I believe we express a deep historical truth while there are those who try blind us to the truth. Peace without a territorial compromise is not possible. It was the Likud government which created the precedent for that.

Jordanian Chamber of Commerce Delegation Visits

JN1106131495 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A delegation representing the Chamber of Commerce in Jordan's southern port city of al-'Aqabah is now on a visit to the Israeli Elat port city. The team is scheduled to hold talks with Israeli officials on ways of joint cooperation and exchange of expertise. The two-day visit comes in return to a visit to al-'Aqabah by the head and members of Elat Chamber of Commerce last April.

Jordan Politicians Say Opposition 'Loud,''Few'

TA1206100995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four Jordanian politicians, members of the al-Ahrar [Liberals] Party, which supports the peace agreement with Israel, have arrived on a visit to Israel as guests of the Foreign Ministry. The delegation is headed by party leader, Dr. Ahmad al-Zu'bi.

Speaking to our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus at the Jordan River crossing, Dr. al-Zu'bi said that the opposition to peace in Jordan is loud, but few in number.

The delegation members will meet Israeli public figures, including the president, the foreign minister, and the police minister.

No Opposition to Indian Representation in Autonomy

TA1206063695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our political correspondent reports that India has notified Israel that it intends to open a representation in the autonomous territory.

Israel will not oppose this move.

Jerusalem Mayor, Opposition on PA Decision on Council

TA1306094295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jun 95 p A3

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, reacting to the Palestinian Authority's [PA] decision to reestablish a separate municipality for East Jerusalem, said yesterday that there is no reason to get excited over the threats and declarations issued by the PA or Faysal al-Husayni. "If al- Husayni or the PA breaks the law in Jerusalem, I will make sure they are dealt with appropriately," Olmert said, asserting that "in Jerusalem, there is only one municipality and that this will remain the case in future."

Opposition Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu reacted to the PA's statement by saying that "the Rabin government has created a reality that goes beyond any political imagination. The weakness projected by this government encourages the Palestinians, as well as the Syrians, to raise any demand and score any achievement." Netanyahu said: "Today, there is no one to spell out Israel's red lines and no one to safeguard Israel's fundamental interests. Therefore, the establishment of a Palestinian municipal council in East Jerusalem is an Israeli nightmare which may very well come true if this government remains in power."

The East Jerusalem Municipality was disbanded during the tenure of Former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who reacted to the PA's announcement by saying: "Jerusalem is one city, and in one city there is only room for one council and one municipality."

Kollek said that the government does not have to respond to the PA's decision as long as its words are not translated into action on the ground. However, if the decision is turned into practical steps, every effort must be made to prevent either the official or nonofficial establishment of such a municipality. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT on 13 June publishes on page 11 a report by Roni Shaqed who notes that "Yasir 'Arafat has appointed 74-year-old Dr. Amin Majaj as head of the East Jerusalem Municipality."]

IDF To Quit West Bank Training Camps

TA1106101295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Alex Fishman and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The evacuation of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] boot camps and training camps on the West Bank will be completed within three months, by the end of August. Among the bases to be evacuated are: Bet El, Dotan, Horon, and the Engineering Corp's training camp. The draftees will be dispersed in existing camps within the Green Line. The construction of permanent camps for the draftees will last until the end of the decade.

According to the Central Command's plans, regional brigade headquarters will be removed from the Arab towns in September and will deploy to the evacuated boot camps. Contrary to earlier reports, the withdrawal of the commands from the towns will be done simultaneously, except for the brigade situated in Hebron.

Within the framework of the West Bank redeployment, called "Spectrum B," the IDF will carry out work at over 30 locations in order to enable the absorption of the headquarters and operational companies currently located in the towns and their environs. Seven liaison offices of the Israeli-Palestinian joint committees and the Civil Administration will also be located in the new sites. According to the plans, the IDF will complete the transfer of the installations and camps to the new sites by December.

At the same time, the building of three new roads for military purposes and four civilian bypass roads and another 10 new roads for the Jewish population on the West Bank are being planned. The cost of the road construction could reach 500 million shekels.

Contrary to the first redeployment stage, which is now being implemented, a serious dispute has cropped up in the talks with the Palestinians on the second stage. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin refuses to discuss the second stage. He is prepared to discuss only a limited IDF withdrawal prior to the elections in the territories and not a further redeployment after the elections. Rabin expressed his position in a CNN interview with King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. He said that if the Palestinians insist on reaching an agreement on the withdrawal that will follow the elections, he is not sure an agreement can be reached by 1 July.

The Palestinians are demanding that the agreement to be achieved by 1 July includes a fixed agenda for the wide-ranging withdrawal Israel is supposed to carry out after the elections. Israel says it cannot make such a commitment until the implementation of the first stage is tested.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that the Palestinians "will not have any choice" but to accept the Israeli position. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week that in his view 1 July has become important; therefore, it will be necessary to sign something on that date. Political sources in Jerusalem believe that the signing of a partial document and perhaps a symbolic withdrawal from IDF bases on the West Bank might be possible on 1 July.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in a page A1 report by Aluf Ben, 'Amira Hess, and Eytan Rabin, says that "within the framework of the interim arrangement, Israel is prepared to pull the IDF out of four West Bank towns — Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah — but the Palestinians are demanding an IDF departure also from Bethlehem and Ramallah, and that is the bone of contention, political sources told HA'ARETZ yesterday. Military sources confirmed the intention to evacuate the four towns, but noted that a decision has not yet been made on the matter," and will anyway be made at "the senior political level."]

IDF Position on Golan Seen as 'Most Important'

TA1306094895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Nehama [illegible]wek]

[FBIS Translated Te[illegible] [illegible]ublic does not change its views based on the pronouncements of state leaders. This transpired in a special study conducted by Prof. Efrayim Ya'ar and Dr. Tamar Herman for Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research.

The same question was posed in two different polls. The first was conducted on 25 May, before Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke about the need for a withdrawal in the Golan in exchange for a peace agreement. Respondents were asked whether they would support a peace agreement that includes full recognition on the part of Syria, including diplomatic relations, commercial ties, and open borders in exchange for a withdrawal from the Golan. Some 16.7 percent supported a withdrawal, 34.8 percent favored a partial withdrawal, 46.5 percent objected to a withdrawal, and 2 percent did not reply.

The same question was posed in a second poll conducted four days later, following Rabin's and Peres' declarations. The findings were similar: 20 percent supported a full withdrawal, 32.6 percent favored a partial withdrawal, 42.1 percent objected to any withdrawal whatsoever, and 5 percent had no opinion.

Another interesting finding was that 65.6 percent of the public believes that on the withdrawal question the most important position is that of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security establishment, then that of the public, and only then that of the prime minister and the government ministers.

King Husayn Reviews Domestic, Regional Issues

JN1206210095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1742 GMT 12 Jun 95

["Open dialogue" between King Husayn and media officials at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 12 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I welcome all my brothers to this house of Jordanians and to this brotherly open dialogue. This dialogue is not unprecedented. We are accustomed to meeting from time to time to discuss our affairs honestly and in a brotherly way and to raise all issues that need to be tackled or discussed. This has always taken place in an atmosphere permeated by a spirit of responsibility. At this stage in the life of the homeland, I pray that God will grant us success so that this stage will mark a new beginning leading Jordan to a situation where it can provide the needs of its sons and daughters — the members of our one big family — and provide them the chances to prepare themselves for facing up to future challenges ably and efficiently. God willing, we will arrive at a situation where we can actually free ourselves from the need for anyone else and we can stand on our own feet. Naturally, this is a noble objective that we all must seek to achieve. We have sought to achieve that objective throughout the long journey. I firmly believe that this country has something to say and something to offer for the nation. It can offer a model and serve as a factor of strength for the entire Arab homeland. The sooner we are able to set things right and raise the edifices higher, the better we, and I personally, can perform my duty toward every person I love in this country and toward all my kinfolk, brothers, and loved ones.

You are most welcome. I am very pleased to take any questions and observations you might have and to respond to them. But at the beginning I would like to congratulate the newspaper AL-RA'Y and its staff on its 25th anniversary. I am truly thankful and appreciative for their continued efforts. I wish them the best of luck.

[Mahmud al-Kayid, chairman of the AL-RA'Y board of directors] We would like to hear from his majesty our leader about the latest developments of the peace process and Jordan's relations with its neighbors and the world, particularly with the United States after the secretary of state's visit. Thank you.

[Husayn] Thank you, brother. The latest developments concerning us here in Jordan can be summed up as follows: The majority of what has been agreed upon has been achieved. We have restored our territory in full. Regarding the water issue, pumping will start soon, God willing, through the means that have been provided for that purpose to cover some of our needs in Amman and other cities and the Kingdom. There is a need to build dams for other water projects on the River Jordan and in the Jordan Valley. There is a need to build new installations. We are working to complete technical studies as soon as possible and then to provide financial resources to start implementing them. All our recent contacts with our friends indicate that there is a great readiness to contribute to those and other projects that will be raised at the Amman economic summit conference in which states, companies, and businessmen will take part. In addition, there has been a meeting here at the level of the Jordanian-Palestinian family. We have urged our brothers working in this field to organize their matters and to do all that is possible to support the brothers and kinfolk in the occupied territories which will be liberated, God willing.

We also sought to prepare ourselves for the economic conference through a Palestinian-Jordanian perspective wherever possible. Also, we are working in this homeland, Jordan, so that a Jordanian individual would be able to perform his duty and role in the coming phase.

As for the latest developments in the region, I think there are signs showing that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is continuing. It seems to me that, God willing, there is a strong possibility of a success in beginning the stage that has been delayed so far, and that elections will be held soon, probably at the time set for these elections in the West Bank.

On the Syrian-Israeli track, I think that there is substantial progress, and this will be reflected on the Lebanese-Israeli track.

As for our relations with our brothers, they are normal and ordinary relations and no change has taken place — neither negative nor positive change has taken place concerning these relations since we began this stage. Probably, the positive signs are more than the negative ones in our relations with our brothers in the Arab world. Our relations are good with our brothers in Egypt and our relations with Syria are normal. As for the Gulf, praise be to God, relations are good. On this occasion, I want to repeat congratulations on, and express my pleasure for the Saudi-Yemeni agreement on the pending issues. It seems that all these issues have been tackled. This is something that deserves appreciation and our pleasure for the achievements that have been realized, in addition to border demarcation between the brothers in Oman and Yemen. God willing, our relations with our brothers in Saudi Arabia are on their way toward normalcy. Our relations with the Gulf states are very good, and also with all our brothers.

We hope to see warmer relations, and this will be realized one day, God willing. I think that our brothers in the Arab world will surely realize that through our democratic way of life here in this country, we do not want to threaten anyone but we want to live what can be a successful experience that others will consider, God willing. It can be an example and model for our brothers. We are for cooperation, integration, and joint action. We believe that we should look to the many defects and mistakes in our Arab world in particular because they are the causes of the current situation.

We used to accuse the others of harming us, but in fact we have harmed ourselves and we have always done so throughout the long march since the beginning of the century and until now. Therefore, we shoulder the results. It is time for a new look at all issues — a look that gives priority to the public interest, and gives a suitable status to the Arab human being and his rights so that this human being will feel that he has a right to make his decisions and draw up the features of his future and contribute to this future, and so that he will feel that he is a human being like all human beings in this world. Thus, he can willingly and sincerely contribute to more stability for us in this greater homeland, God willing.

[Musa al-Kilani, AL-DUSTUR chief editor] Your Majesty, you spoke about the future and giving the next generations an opportunity to face challenges. You are the first leader and first guide. Now, we are passing through a decisive stage, and there are many mechanisms to build the future. My question is: Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher left the country. Is our lord optimistic that Jordan's $275 million debts will be canceled? This leads us to another question: The Parliament began its extraordinary session today, and there is a package of economic bills. Is our lord optimistic that the Parliament will pass these bills which are a major basis to render the Amman economic summit a success? Thank you.

[Husayn] First, regarding Jordanian-U.S. relations, I do not think they have ever been as they are now, in terms of the people's appreciation for this country, for its firm policies, and for its sound approach toward defining the promising future of its people and its nation. Relations between Jordan, on the one hand, and the United States and the other countries of the world, on the other hand, are based on mutual respect and on cooperation vis-a-vis what will emerge in the next stages.

Regarding the debt, I am sure that its cancellation is close. The issue seems to be an internal American one; we have nothing to do with it. This was reiterated not only by the President and the secretary of state, but also by the Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. I am sure this will be accomplished. In addition to this, God willing, we will discuss developing these relations in the future in terms of defense, something to which we attach great importance.

Concerning the joint action to achieve genuine progress in terms of the standard of living of people in our homeland and in the entire region and in terms of stability, such a dialogue was held and is being held with our many friends in the world.

In reality, I would like to say that there is great sympathy with Jordan and an appreciation for Jordan, something which is bigger than the size of Jordan. This sort of thing has never taken place in the past. This is the result of the continuation and the adoption of stands under all circumstances in a way which demonstrates a feeling of responsibility toward ourselves and toward our issues, regardless of the fact of whether or not they were accepted at that time.

The country is known for its courage, fulfillment of its commitment, and for its ability to assume its responsibilities. Its people are playing their role and are passing through an important stage of their lives in which they are laying down the foundations and pillars for a prosperous future, with God's help.

All sides are really concerned to have strong relations with Jordan, to participate in the economic summit conference which will convene in Amman, and to extend as much assistance as possible. In our talks with the United States, we were very frank in saying that the United States plays a leading role in this world, so it is an example for other countries. There is no doubt that settling the issue of debt will also help us with the other friends in terms of lifting this heavy burden from our shoulders. All are aware of this and are moving toward extending what is possible to Jordan in the next stages.

Regarding our internal situation, the Parliament held an extraordinary session. There is a package of topics which should be discussed and a number of laws which should be issued. The issues related to the peace process will complete the part which was agreed on, which was passed by the majority at the House, and became part of our life now. The other issues should also be tackled in an appropriate and reasonable way.

In fact, it seems to me that we are in a stage of internal conflict. By the way, all are my sons and kinsfolk. First, we talk about democracy and parliamentary life and we live them. Then circumstances make us adopt certain stands which we must discuss. Historic decisions are taken and they become part of this country's life. After taking a historic decisions, I believe that the one who respects democracy, pluralism, and freedom of opinion — and here I mean the minority compared to the majority — should not continue with the discussion and the attempt to belittle its significance, value, and impact.

I pray to God to grant this House success in playing its role. If we take an objective look at the homeland, its life, and the challenges it is facing at present and in the future and the point at which we have arrived, I believe this House is assuming the most serious responsibilities in the most crucial phase of this homeland's life.

God willing, God will grant this House success in making the decisions and taking the measures which will leave behind good memories about it in the minds of the coming generations. It is our concern and objective to serve these generations and to carry out our duty toward them in the best way.

I believe that when we move throughout the homeland, we will find out that the good Jordanian man is convinced of the line we have followed after we made attempts and after we used to be in the lead — and we still are — of our nation in terms of all its causes and problems. Everyone of us has passed through these causes and problems.

No one can carry out one-upmanship against us. I sense in the people a great deal more relief and encouragement than some politicians who are still isolated inside the castles they built for themselves. These politicians are continuing their policy whether through their foreign links or through their positions which could have been more brilliant and attractive many years ago as viewed by the citizens and men in our country. These positions, however, are now outdated, and things have changed. Man must deal with everything new with realism, courage, and ability.

As for discussing the coming years, the economic conference, the gains of peace, there are some who are trying to prove, through negativism, that this peace has not achieved anything, and they are trying to obstruct the march. Consequently, we must confront such things with all our potential and resources because we only did what we did to serve our people and bring them to the situation they deserve following all their sacrifices and suffering.

God willing, through our respect for the constitution first and foremost, and through our respect for the national charter and our commitments toward the homeland through endorsing this charter and participating in its creation, and also through our respect for the viewpoint and approach of the majority, we can circumvent what lies before us and proceed with the required speed in order to realize achievements concerning these laws prior to the economic conference as a necessity for its success in the Jordanian arena.

Does this serve an interest or not? I believe there is no room for debating this issue after things have gotten this far. At that time, we will pray to God to inspire all to proceed forward and (?work). Moreover, there is the House of Representatives. Frankly speaking, these are the doyens and representatives of the people and were elected by the people.

I frankly support the one-man-one-vote idea. One vote represents one man and hence this large family to which we belong. Even in this issue, we will perhaps find some difficulties regarding the election law. However, it is the optimal situation which makes people equal.

In more than one previous meeting, we said that pluralism is our way. On several occasions, we also said that congestion obstructs movement and that we need time to become convinced of this, so that new programs will be raised in the arena through youths who can assume their responsibilities and carry out their duties in the required way in the coming phase of construction and from various posts.

Given that the House represents the people who directly elected its members, and given that it assumes its responsibilities — God willing, it will assume its responsibilities and carry out its role in the best way — where, then, is the role of the trade unions and other parties which talk? What is the justification for their positions that have nothing to do with their professions? These trade unions are responsible for promoting their levels and carrying out their duties, so we can catch up with the world's people.

The problem and challenge facing us is how to bridge both this gap and this time phase between us and others in this world. This is the most important thing and our duty. As for discussing politics and other things, I believe that God will guide us and grant us success.

We must look anew at every one who joins these trade unions in terms of his role and duty, in the same way as I talk about the Arab man and his role and duty, so the minority will not monopolize the leading posts in these trade unions for purposes that are perhaps away from the interest of the members of these trade unions and professions. This minority discusses things which it does not have the right to discuss at the expense of duty and the basic role which it should play.

The situation in this country is strange. There is constant talk about all that has not been achieved. However, and despite all difficulties and all that was shouldered — and it is actually the country of the [Palestinian] immigrants and [Jordanian] supporters — no one compares our situation with that of our brethren. Let us look around us with a wider vision, and let us consider the resources available to us and those available in this region to each of our brothers.

[Husayn] We contributed to the building of the Arab homeland with our educated, serious, and active young men and our man made great achievements. Despite all the difficulties we, thank God, reached a situation which we must not continue to ignore in such a manner.

Everybody envies Jordan for what it has achieved. But there are some Jordanians who have nothing to do but to slander and insult this country and its achievements. This is intolerable, and its shameful and forbidden to continue on this path. We beseech God to help everyone fulfill his duties in the best possible way in the future, God willing.

Incidentally, when we talk about the media, the official media is the state's media. Every state has a policy and, consequently, the media defends its policy without any feeling of embarrassment. At the same time, it provides the opportunity whenever possible for the others to express their opposite views. Otherwise, such a media would not have any connection with the country. I do not see why the state's media should remain inactive. If those parties that talk about the media are in charge, they would have used the media to serve their arguments and views. It is now time for the state to have a say and to defend its rights and policy, especially after this policy was adopted by the entire people in this constitutional phase, which they lived, and are living through.

Our brothers in the media sector have major responsibilities. I have talked about the media on more than one occasion. I wish to stress here that I was not generalizing, but referring to specific cases. I have great hope in all of you and I respect you all. I beseech God to help us fulfill our duty in the best possible way.

[AL-ASWAQ Chief Editor Mustafa Abu-Libdah] I was among the brother journalists who had the honor to accompany his majesty the king on his Washington trip during which he signed the Washington Declaration. We also had the honor to accompany his highness the crown prince on his recent visit to Japan. Both visits provided the journalists with the opportunity to see with their own eyes the extent of appreciation this country and leadership enjoy and the sincere desire to help this country to adjust its economy. The clear impression which the journalists had after they accompanied his majesty the king and his highness the crown prince was that the others are willing to help this country on condition that its own citizens help themselves. This message takes us back to what his majesty the king mentioned last year about our need in Jordan for a program for change; change of the mentality, change of the language, change of the method of political and developmental action. Sir: is it time to translate this program for change into a clear plan or a national, comprehensive, and binding program that defines our responsibility? And, should we not take advantage of what this leadership has scored for this country in terms of foreign support and appreciation and provide the necessary domestic mechanisms of action on all levels in the media, domestic and party politics, the parliamentary action, and the developmental action?

[Husayn] Of course, it is time for that. I beseech God to help each of us to fulfill his role and duty, each in his own position, so that we can proceed in accordance with all the facts.

[Abu-Libdah] But, Sir, how do we start, each in his position? How can we turn this wheel to start achieving what you, Sir, have mentioned and what the others expect from us in this country? From where should we start the change in order to give it a full mechanism and make it a general national (?trend) to achieve all that?

[Husayn] Where do we start? I believe we should start from each of us, Sir. At the same time, if we are talking about the state and the Government at this stage, I have chosen a brother and tasked him to shoulder this responsibility with a team that would help him. My aim was to secure some degree of stability because I found that the atmosphere in our country was such that some people were all the time trying to keep it disturbed and vulnerable to constant change. On the other hand, it seems to me that efforts are now directed toward destabilizing this government. It is even said that the last measure to take is to appoint someone like me, who has a feeling of responsibility toward everybody and above differences. This is part of the attempts to destabilize the situation in the future phases.

There are certain forces that act out of the premise of not believing in Jordan. I will tell now something from the memories I have from the march of my life. Among the ranks of the so-called opposition there are two leading personalities which I want to refer to. The first, from the phase that preceded the events of the 1970 civil war, which was a tragedy to all of us. After the June 1967 war and at the stage when we were rebuilding the army, which was standing on the long borderline with Israel. The army was displaying heroic steadfastness in the face of ceaseless attacks, which were connected to certain events that originated from here [referring to Palestinian commando operations against Israel from bases in Jordan]. We had meetings at the Armed Forces General Headquarters to mend and control things one way or another. I was wondering at that time what benefit will one get from launching operations and then abandoning the arena to leave the army vulnerable to counter offensives at the time when our situation in the entire Arab homeland was very critical. That brother told me that this was their policy. They — and he among them — think that Israel must be provoked into occupying Jordan and after that there will be an opportunity to stage resistance from within as Israel would have expanded and its ability to control things would be diminished. I told him: If that is your argument, we have a totally opposite view. I am the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and my responsibility is to preserve every inch of this land. If you continue on this line, then God help us face the consequences. But as for me, I will fulfill my duty and responsibility. That army was the shield of the homeland, and the land on which we stand is the last steadfast stronghold. If it falls, God forbid, we would lose ourselves and our country and we would not have the chance to arrive at any of our rights. We will also expose the heart of the Arab homeland to danger.

This was the mentality of one of them. I will not mention other incidents, which he in particular knows, or my attempts to be human toward him and his family and all the things I did in that regard.

The other one came to me here recently and asked me: Why don't we follow a confrontational policy toward the West, America, and Israel? But, don't you see our situation and circumstances? This person is a union leader. We forgave him his mistakes and pardoned him, despite the fact that I know, and he knows, that he had conspired against this country. He tells me: Why are the Jordanian people leading a luxurious life? Look at the Iraqi people. Why don't we be like them. We are not better than them. I cannot really understand how the head of the unions [reference to Layth Shubaylat], whose job is to enhance the living standards in the country and to upgrade the level of professions, can say this. He wants the people to experience further suffering and deprivation. These are some of the voices which we hear from time to time. But those people remain few. Nor can a bearer of burdens bear another's burden. [part of Koranic verse]

I have a long history with people who preceded this man. In the 1950's and before the Arabization of the Army, a person came to negotiate with me and ask me to leave the country. He was speaking on behalf of foreign sides that were in control here. He told me: You are still young and you have a full life. Why do you want to confront those major powers? They are ready to give you a house on the French coasts anywhere and a salary. This person was a minister at the time. This is one of many incidents. And you ask me why my hair has turned gray. [laughter from audience]

But this is unjust. It is unjust. This country deserves more from all of us. We should try and, God willing, the results will be good. All we seek is to please God and relieve our conscience. We will oppose the biggest force as long as we believe that we are right and we have no other objective than the interests and safety of this human being and the true freedom of this country. We are close to achieving this. Thus, the country may play an active role.

[Nabil al-Sharif, chief editor of AL-DUSTUR newspaper] Your Majesty: Indeed, one sometimes is amazed at the two contradictory images of Jordan, which some people give sometimes. The one is a bright image which we all know, represented in the Jordan of King Husayn, the Jordan of sacrifices and development. Strangely enough, this image is sometimes drawn by Jordan's friends abroad, or even by diplomats who work in Jordan. I know some foreign diplomats who do not want to be transferred from Amman to any other Arab country or foreign state. They regard Amman as an oasis of stability and safety and a country in which they want to stay for as long as it is possible. On the other hand, you find an image distorted by some other people who constantly cause harm, and this is indeed regrettable. How can we reconcile these two images? What can we do? I know it is a collective responsibility. The media could play a role. We all have a role to play in our different positions. How can we reconcile the two images? I have another question about the parties. You have referred to the great number of political parties in Jordan and observed that this could block their proper activity. This is a true description of the status of political parties. But the numbers of the members of those parties give us a completely different picture. The parties suffer from continued deficits, setbacks, and poor performance. Within the context of political pluralism, is it time for a review of the parties and their performance, so they may play a more effective, active, and dynamic role? Thank you.

[Husayn] The review is left for the people, the citizens, the members of this Jordanian family. The challenge is one to them. If they want pluralism, then they must tell their alert, strong young men to work actively in the arena. Programs should be proposed, so the people may give their opinion. These programs should be devoted to the service of the people. Then, one can choose to support this or that party. As for the different schools in this country, this is part of our democratic experience and we should tolerate this. At the same time, I have absolute confidence in the individual in this country and in the overwhelming majority in this country, who are with this individual, and the future will be theirs, God willing. May God grant us success.

[Hasan al-Tall, chief editor of Muslim Brotherhood AL-LIWA' weekly newspaper] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The one who loves does not fear his beloved. Let me relate the following story from the literature of political Islam. Abu-Bark al-Siddiq [first Muslim Caliph and Prophet Muhammad's faithful companion] told one who praised him: I am not exactly as you say; but I am greater than what you really think of me. Also, Caliph 'Umar was once quoted as saying: You are not a worthy people if you do not tell the truth. I consider myself from a current that may see things differently. The situation we have arrived at is an inevitable result of a stage that must end this way. What happened happened. Your Majesty, you are one of the figures who best realizes the circumstances of the region. I am not the only one to say this, but all those who wrote and spoke about you say this. Don't you see that the situation we have arrived at is the result of a general wrong Arab line and that things must be rectified. The one who should do this should be a pioneer, not an ordinary leader. We want a pioneer leader. Can your majesty play this role? Thank you.

[Husayn] Regarding the disease, sir, you have diagnosed it. Yes, sir, our mistakes are numerous in this Arab world. The pains from which we are suffering resulted from these mistakes. We are searching for a new way to build and to offer our people and individuals in the larger homeland all we can on the Jordanian level, and thus set an example to others. However, sir, we need to rise to the level of responsibility so that this country can succeed in its march. When democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights succeed; when individual is well valued, which is his right; and once democracy is not attacked in the name of democracy, the situation may change and brothers become convinced that change is inevitable. We will then have real guarantees against committing more mistakes as was the case in the past. Regarding the leadership, sir, I am proud that I am a soldier in the service of this nation. I am an ordinary citizen, an Arab Hashemite who belongs to this nation. I do not claim for myself any right to leadership or to expanding the area of my responsibilities beyond their present or past domain. I think any talk about this subject may raise a great deal of baseless doubts and suspicions. We have suffered from this with regard to the brothers in Palestine. We have no objective or purpose but to serve and support our brothers and kinfolk. Let us recall past years to see how many meetings were held and how much was said about the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative and about their leadership. We abided by that in 1974. What has changed? This leadership has shouldered its responsibilities and followed the path, representing the people. All should rally around it. If there is a desire for reform, let it be from inside through discussion and democracy. Asking us to side with quarters that are against this leadership, the sole legitimate representative of the people, is illogical. This is an example of what is happening here, so let us put aside talk about leading the Arab nation. We are from the nation and will serve it to the best of our ability.

['Abdallah al-Qaq, AL-DUSTUR columnist] Your Majesty the King: Jordan is distinguished on the economic, political, and democratic levels as noted in the Arab and international conferences held abroad. However, decisions are sometimes made and then canceled. Do you not think that such decisions, especially those related to normalization, which were largely highlighted by foreign press and radios on Jordan's position on the normalization process, have affected Jordan and its pioneering pan-Arab positions which you have enshrined and consecrated during the years of your rule, which will be long, God willing?

[Husayn] The issue of normalization is not imposed by the state on the people of this country. He who wants to deal with people in a neighboring country with which we have peace can do so. He who wants to do the opposite is also free to do so. Now that the process has gone through all constitutional stages and peace exists, no quarter has the right to say this is not so, or force a doctor not to treat a patient. Where is the doctor's oath and his commitment? What are we afraid of? Have we reached such a stage in medicine and science — although we are at the forefront in this regard in the region—that we are afraid to lose their secrets? Isn't it our duty to continue to build and see what new things are there in this world so that we can upgrade our level and the level of the services we render to our citizens and have our own researches? Regarding the journalist who is against normalization, what is the principal task of the press? Is it not researching and opening all doors so that the journalist will be acquainted with all matters rather than having the international and Israeli press present here while we are closing our doors on ourselves because we are against normalization? Don't we have citizens in Israel itself — Arabs who stayed in their land? Shouldn't we contact them and try to understand through this contact the mistakes which led to our present situation on the level of the nation after all these years?

Should Jordanian engineers not work in the forthcoming major projects? Who shall we bring? What is the logic behind this? Delegations come and say: We are ready to communicate to you all the experience and science we have in agriculture, industry, and other areas. Shall we tell them: No, we are against normalization? What logic is this? We are wagering on our human being. Let us provide him with the opportunities to work and build, and give him the chances made available to others. There is nothing that scares us. We have not changed; we are the same people and let us employ in a positive direction part of the energies employed in the past in a negative direction. Naturally, these opinions, statements, and positions have negative results. All I wish to do at this stage of my life is to place this country on a clear road leading to the building of a real power based on stability, and to provide opportunities to the youths to work and be creative so that this country will not need any side whatsoever after being deprived throughout its life of its right to say its word on this situation.

It is high time we achieved this objective and expressed our opinion freely to serve our nation to the best of our ability and to serve the Arab individual in the greater homeland more efficiently than in the past. Once again, peace is one of God's attributes. It is an objective sought by all those who believe in God. We hope, a just and comprehensive peace will be achieved. We hope the future will be bright.

[Tawfiq Kiwan, chief editor of AKHBAR AL-USBU' weekly newspaper] Your Majesty: I think Jordanian-Palestinian ties are now in an excellent shape...

[Husayn, interrupting] Of course.

[Kiwan continues] ...after these ties have witnessed several ups and downs. Can we be optimistic in light of your majesty's recent meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat that strong and permanent foundations have been laid to ensure the future of the two peoples in their brotherly relationship that will continue, God willing?

[Husayn] I am personally satisfied and assured. The meeting was positive, and I think that during the meeting, we removed any traces of doubts regarding our intentions. We support this leadership and we support the Palestinian Arab people regarding their rights on their national soil, to the best of our ability. We are cooperating in all fields and areas. We wanted our brothers here, the economists and workers, to carry out their duties together in this area. As for the future, let me say again that this matter is left for the people at a certain point in time when they are free to express their opinion to define the features of the relationship, and whether it should take a different form from its present form. Any party that tries to make Jordan take sides is attempting to harm the distinguished historical relationship of the immigrants and supporters. Any talk now about the future relationship is premature. We support the Palestinians to the best of our ability. We shall continue to do this, God willing.

[Journalist Salamah al-'Ukur] Your Majesty: Since the Arab order saw its regrettable deterioration, your majesty's calls and appeals — thanks to your rich experience and wisdom — have focused on two main plans. First, a national democratic plan. You have achieved, or are about to achieve, this plan. We have political pluralism, party and parliamentary practice, democratic changes, and assiduous efforts to complete the democratic changes. We are now left with another scheme for pan-Arab awakening, which requires a program, method, tools, and instruments. What can be done, since this Arab order is in its present situation, which causes sorrow for your majesty and the nation?

[Husayn] I cherish all these hopes and aspirations and I think about them all the time. But, I appeal to my people, the sons of this homeland, and to everyone of you, for help. One hand cannot clap. Help me. Help me. The objectives of the Arab Revolt and the Arab individual are our objectives, our life, and raison d'etre. Instead of preoccupying ourselves with the daily affairs, let everyone of us think about the future and contribute to making this future in the best way possible.

[AL-RA'Y Deputy Chief Editor 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Zughaylat] Thank you, Sir. In fact I do not have a question. But I wish to hear a certain assurance from your majesty. It is our fate in this good country that we are always targeted by unfair rumors. Recently, there were some rumors that certain citizens were harassed — and these may be allegations — and that their passports were confiscated. There were also other allegations which may harm national unity and your majesty always says that anyone who encroaches on national unity is my enemy to the day of judgment. I wish to hear from your majesty something to assure our citizen, our national unity, and our one family which we keep talking about.

[Husayn] What I hear, what I always ask and receive an answer about is that we are acting according to law in all our measures and positions, and that there is no deviation from that way in any way. Preserving ties among the citizens of the family is an essential thing. But, please, when your hear of an incident or a case, check and verify it and let some of you contact us or the government and let us discuss the specific question without that generalization, which is, regrettably, part of the attempts to weaken this country and this march, nothing more, nothing less.

[Majid 'Asfur from AL-RA'Y] Your Majesty, I think the talk about the so-called opposition has taken much of the time, and by doing so, we give this minority more than it deserves. Sir, when we in the press do not publish the letters and fax messages we receive, we do so for two reasons: First, because we are not convinced of what we receive and, second, because we do not have paper to waste on such statements and paper is expensive in our country.

Allow me, your majesty, to move to talk about the services because if we spend our entire life trying to convince that group, it may not be convinced, and we may be arguing with people who do not wish to be convinced. After the Gulf War and the increase in population, we in the public sector faced certain shortages in services. With the exception of the Husayn Medical Center — the great establishment that was built thanks to your majesty — the other public sector health institutions available to citizens face shortages. For instance, there are shortages in many of the facilities at al-Bashir Hospital, the biggest government hospital that is open to citizens. We understand there are pressures on the resources and budgets. We believe that with the good management of resources, we can provide better services to our citizen. We hear views of that sort in the press and when we pay attention to such subjects, we believe we serve the citizen and avoid other issues. We know that we have a duty to fulfill, together with our government, toward our country. We also know for certain that King Husayn is always a source of hope and we believe that we should raise such issues in the presence of your majesty so that such services can be improved.

[Husayn] Your are quite right, Sir. I think there are studies in this regard to reconsider the entire arrangements in the health field all over the kingdom. But the case of al-Bashir Hospital is similar to that of the Jordan University Hospital and the Husayn Medical Center. The shortage in resources at this stage is placing a heavy burden on us. As regards reform and reorganization, you should not hold from us any of your views on certain conditions that need to be rectified and mended. I think the doors are all open to try and do the best we can, with the resources we have, to improve the situation. And, hopefully, we are standing on the threshold of a bright future, God willing. God bless you.

U.S. DAO Said To Advise Country To Buy Israeli Arms

*JN1306102095 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic
13-19 Jun 95 p 1*

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Ali Mahafizah shocked the audience at a lecture on Israeli elections that was organized by the Center for Strategic Studies by saying that when Jordan asked the United States for military aid — training and weapons — it was told that "Israel" is closer to them and they can purchase weapons from it and seek training there. Dr. Fahd al-Fanik got angry and demanded that Dr. Mahafizah verify his statement and mention the source. Mahafizah shocked the audience again by saying: The military attache at the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

Islamic, Popular Unity Party Members Arrested

*JN1206121795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
12 Jun 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] The [Jordanian] security forces raided the house of colleague journalist Faraj Shalhub at midnight last Thursday and arrested him after thoroughly searching his house in the Suf refugee camp.

The security bodies had earlier summoned colleague Shalhub who writes for AL-SABIL and FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH for questioning on an article he wrote criticizing the deportation of Hamas leaders from Jordan.

AL-MAJD has learned that many others were also arrested with Shalhub, including Salah al-Din 'Isa, a teacher at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA], and his son Ahmad who are known for sympathizing with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Islamic parliamentary sources told AL-MAJD that the three who were arrested are from the Gaza Strip and will most probably be deported from Jordan if the authorities can find a country that is willing to host them.

Meanwhile, arrests continue to be made within the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party [JDPUP], and the Islamic al-Tahrir Party. In addition to those arrested from the JDPUP whose names AL-MAJD published in its last issue, the security bodies arrested more JDPUP members, including 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Amiri, Husayn Mutawi', and Ahmad Husayn.

AL-MAJD was able to identify only 'Abd-al-Halim Haymur, an UNRWA teacher in al-Rusayfah, from among the Al-Tahrir members who were arrested.

JDPUP Secretary General 'Azmi al-Khawaja, voiced astonishment at the arrest of JDPUP members and supporters, affirming they are arbitrary and unfounded arrests. He called on the security bodies to immediately release those arrested or to refer them to trial if there are specific charges against them.

Al-Khawaja told AL-MAJD that these arrests flagrantly violate the constitution and impinge on public liberties. He said people should not be arrested on the basis of suspicions and inaccurate reports and information.

Islamist Effort To Block House Session Agenda Fails

JN1306112895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 95 , pp 1, 7

[Special to JORDAN TIMES by Sa'eda al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman — Parliament convened on Sunday in an extraordinary session and got down to business quickly after a short-lived debate on the constitutionality of the session itself and its agenda that includes draft laws which call for repeal of bans against dealing with Israel and Israel.

Spokesperson of the Islamic bloc in the Lower House of Parliament Hamzah Mansur called on the House to consider the session as unconstitutional because the "agenda excludes important issues that were proposed in the deputies' petition and includes certain laws and regulations that the petition did not refer to."

Mr. Mansur was referring to a petition that was sent to His Majesty King Husayn signed by 44 deputies calling for the convening of an extraordinary session. The petition specified the draft legislation deputies wanted to be included on its agenda in an attempt believed to be aimed at excluding the draft laws that call for the repeal of the economic boycott on Israel and a ban on the sale of real estate to Israelis.

A Royal Decree that was issued last week convening the House set the agenda of the session with which the lawmakers are obliged to comply. The agenda included the draft laws related to Israel. The decree was issued in accordance with Article 82 of the Constitution which gives the King the right to call Parliament for an extraordinary session. In a different clause, the same article stipulates that an extraordinary session can be held at the request of the majority of lawmakers.

Deputy Tujan Faysal said the session could be considered constitutional if its agenda included all draft laws and regulations that were proposed by the deputies in their petition as well as those proposed by the government.

Islamic Deputy 'Abd al-Rahim al-'Ukur said the matter should be referred to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution. But Deputy 'Abd al-Karim al-Dughmi, president of the Judiciary Committee, said the session was constitutional and there was no need for the issue to be discussed further.

Mr. al-Dughmi, a lawyer, said the session's agenda did not exclude any of the main topics the deputies wanted to be discussed.

On the last day of the House's regular session in February, opposition deputies boycotted the session and deprived it of quorum. On the agenda of the aborted meeting was the draft laws related to Israel. The draft laws repeal a 1973 law that bans the sale of real estate to Israelis, and a 1953 law that prohibits trade with Israel.

Minister: Economic Summit Success Linked to Peace

JN1006101395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English !0 Jun 95 pp 12, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Natasha Bukhari]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — The success of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman in October hinges on the developments on Arab-Israeli peace talks at the time, Trade and Industry Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib said Friday.

"Stability and comprehensive peace in the region are the key factors of economic cooperation and development in the Middle East," Mr. Abu-al-Raghib told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview.

The minister, who heads the preparatory committee for the summit, said that the outcome of the meeting will reflect the political atmosphere in the region.

Foreign investment in the region can only be attained if Israel finalises peace settlements with the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon, he said.

"Breakthroughs in these two tracks will be reflected in the summit," said the minister explaining that potential investors "want to secure their security in the area of their investment."

European diplomats agreed. Although interest exists in investing in the region, "businessmen will only take the plunge when they are 100 per cent sure of the political stability of the region," said one diplomat who asked not to be named.

He added that although European countries will be largely represented in the summit, they will not immediately start investing in the region.

"The summit will be a familiarising meeting for them. They will get some notion of the region's economic and political status and keep potential ventures in mind until the political atmosphere and the infrastructure and investment climate is encouraging," said the diplomat.

"If the political atmosphere is conducive, the region's economy will be integrated with that of the rest of the developed world enabling the Middle East to prosper under peace," Mr. Abu-al-Raghib said.

Citing as an example the Palestinians' "forthcoming approach" to cooperate and coordinate with Jordanians on an economic level, the minister said that their attitude stems from signs of progress in Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

A three-day Palestinian-Jordanian business meeting, attended by over 400 people, ended Wednesday with a decision to form a joint council for cooperation and coordination between them. They also called on concerned authorities to speed up the progress of adopting investment-related laws.

"It is very important that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Palestinian private sector propose projects in the summit, and I hope that bilateral Jordanian-Palestinian joint projects would also be presented," said Mr. Abu-al-Raghib. Joint ventures will consolidate good relations between the two peoples, he added.

Noting that any investor needs motivating investment laws and an encouraging infrastructure, Mr. Abu al-Raghib affirmed that "as a government, we are working on amending investment-related laws and regulations to be submitted to Parliament during its extra-ordinary session that convenes on Monday."

The government has also prepared investment projects to be proposed during the summit with the help of the World Economic Forum whose task is to activate the private sector's role as well as identity government project to be marketed along-side the conference.

The public sector will focus on 27 projects in the areas of tourism as well as trade exchange in well-established local resources like potash.

The world economic forum is currently in the process of selecting from hundreds of proposed private sector ventures a number of projects to be presented in the summit, Mr. Abu-al-Raghib said.

Of the Kingdom's economic infrastructure, the minister said that establishing the proper infrastructure will be funded by the Treasury as well as private sector indeavours.

"We are depending on the private sector to encourage outside investments in the Kingdom through participating in decision-making where economic development is concerned as well as adding the government in providing a conductive infrastructure," stressed Mr. Abu al-Raghib.

The regional summit is expected to be attended by leaders, ministers and key businesspersons from all over the world who will hold discussions on the governmental and private sector level on the region's economy.

Saying that he expected a strong Egyptian participation the minister added that he hoped Saudi Arabia will also participate in the conference.

"I think that Saudis will be interested in participation. I hope their government will not stop them," he said explaining that Saudi Arabia has adopted a lethargic attitude towards the meeting.

Asked whether Iraq would be invited the minister said that he did not see any reason why Iraqi businessmen should be excluded.

Prince, Prime Minister Meet Iranian Minister

JN1206202295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said that all parties concerned to the Middle East peace process should take part in rehabilitating the region's economy. The crown prince pointed out that scope of cooperation between Jordan and Iran covers the areas of human and natural resources development and exchange of expertise. The crown prince's remarks were made today when he met with Iran's Industry Minister Reza Ne'matzadeh and the accompanying delegation.

Reza Ne'matzadeh briefed the crown prince on the conclusions reached by the joint Jordanian-Iranian committee in its two-day meeting in Amman. The visiting minister said the committee underlined the importance of setting an air, sea, and land transportation network to boost trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir also received the visiting Iranian minister. Cooperation ties with Iran centered the talks between the two sides.

Earlier today, the Iranian minister met with Planning Minister Dr. Rima Khalaf. The two side discussed aspects of cooperation and investment opportunities between the two countries.

Top Officials Discuss Trade

JN1206080895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 95 , p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.) — Visiting Iranian Minister of Industry Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh Sunday opened talks with his Jordanian counterpart, 'Ali 'Abd al-Raghib, by expressing Iran's readiness to launch Jordanian-Iranian cooperation in various economic fields.

Mr. Ne'matzadeh, who arrived Saturday on a visit to Jordan for talks with officials and to attend the opening of the Iranian trade fair in Amman, Monday said that Iran can also contribute to joint Iranian-Jordanian ventures in the Kingdom and exchange expertise with Jordanian business and institutions.

The Iranian minister asserted the importance of developing Jordanian-Iranian relations and said that his country was ready to take whatever steps deemed necessary to achieve that goal.

For his part, Mr. 'Abd al-Raghib, who, with Mr. Ne'matzadeh earlier Sunday co-chaired a joint economic committee meeting, reviewed areas where Iran and Jordan could pool their efforts, especially in trade and economic fields.

Noting that potential bilateral cooperation in these fields is wide and diverse, Mr. 'Abd al-Rahgib said that it was important for the two sides at this moment to try to increase the volume of their exchanged trade and to embark on joint investment projects through their respective private sectors.

Mr. 'Abd al-Raghib voiced Jordan's desire to establish very strong economic ties with Iran and to overcome various obstacles that could impede trade exchanges.

Jordan is seeking to increase its exports of phosphates, fertilisers and chemicals to Iran, and will discuss joint ventures benefiting from Iran's experience in the manufacture of vehicles including buses and auto spare parts, according to Muhammad al-Sumadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Topics related to joint ventures are expected to be tackled during the Iranian minister's visit to the Amman Chamber of Industry and meetings with government officials, according to ministry sources.

After the meeting, with Mr. 'Abd al-Raghib, the Iranian minister called on Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti and reviewed bilateral ties.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said that the two ministers exchanged views over regional and international issues of common interests, and both underlined the need for bolstering ties between their two countries.

After the visit to Mr. al-Kabariti, Mr. Ne'matazadeh met Transport Minister Samir Qa'war and briefed him on Iran's capabilities of manufacturing transport vehicles, trucks and buses as well as tractors and agricultural equipment, train coaches and railway lines.

He said Iran wishes to stimulate trade and to upgrade 1963 and 1977 trade agreements.

Mr. Qa'war said that Jordan seeks to establish strong cooperation with Iran in land and maritime transport, and that officials at his ministry have already prepared the text of a draft agreement in this regard that is to be signed by the Jordanian and Iranian sides during the visiting minister's stay in Jordan.

Mr. Qa'war said that the two sides have already set up a joint subcommittee to put together a draft agreement for bilateral cooperation.

Furthermore, Mr. Qa'war said that concerned parties in the national airlines of the two countries are currently studying air transport cooperation with a view to upgrading an air transport agreement between them.

"We are currently studying prospects for modernising our fleets of buses, trucks and small cars, and soon we will finalise a general set of specifications to carry out the plan," added the minister who expressed hope that Jordan and Iran would cooperate in modernising the Jordanian land transport fleets.

Buwayz: Talks With Israel 'Might Resume in 2 Months'

NC1306094295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said today that the negotiations between Lebanon and Israel might resume in two months in light of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and if Israel continues to show goodwill.

In an interview with L'ORIENT LE JOUR, the foreign minister said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, which wound up on Sunday [11 June], has confirmed progress between Israel and Syria. He added: When the military achieve an agreement on security principles, we could start negotiations with Israel. This would allow us to test Israeli intentions, Buwayz added.

Buwayz Views Invitation to Multilateral Talks

NC0906121695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon received today an official invitation to attend the meetings of the water committee stemming from the multilateral talks; they will be held in Jordan between 18 and 22 June.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz reiterated Lebanon's reservations about attending multilateral talks if bilateral negotiations do not make concrete progress. He said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] We have been receiving invitations to the multilateral negotiations since the Madrid conference. The Lebanese stand remains the same, namely that we believe that the bilateral negotiations must make enough substantial concrete progress to convince us that peace has become inevitable, a peace that is line with our aspirations and rights. We might review our stand when we reach such a stage. [end recording]

Goals of 'Terrorist' Training Camp Explained

BR0906150995 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 31 May 95 p 8

[Report by J.C. Gumucio: "Palestinian Suicide School"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sidon — They are frugal young people, hardened by the rigors of relentless training. Some of them are not yet 16 years old. In these beardless faces, burnt by the sun of southern Lebanon, there is something that brings to mind the first guerillas of As Sifa (The Torment), the first group of Palestinian fighters who early in the 1960's gave rise to Al Fatah, the faction which, like its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, finally said farewell to arms three years ago in its campaign against Israel.

The brigade being trained between the banana plantations surrounding the Ayn al-Hulawah Palestinian refugee camp south of Sidon, is still called Al Fatah, but to its emblem have been added the words "Black 13 September." This force of more than 70 young men is the vanguard of those who reject the agreement which 'Arafat and Israel reached on this date in 1993 and which their enemies have sworn to destroy at any cost, including — their leaders say — by eliminating 'Arafat himself.

"These are the human bombs of Palestine," said the commander of the force with pride, a 43-year-old veteran fighter who until three years ago was the leader of the Al Fatah guerilla force in southern Lebanon. His name is Munir Makdah, but everyone calls him simply Abu Hassan. Like the guerilla leaders of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in Gaza and the West Bank, Abu Hassan said that he was convinced now more than ever that the agreement between 'Arafat and Israel was a sham and an unforgivable betrayal. The armed struggle, he said, must be stepped up until "Israel is eliminated." The means for achieving this goal, he added, was to continue the violence using the method that terrifies the Israelis the most: suicide attacks like those which in one year have caused around 70 deaths in Israel and the occupied territories.

Abu Hassan is a charismatic figure who occasionally strokes his luxuriant black beard with the studied intention of lending dramatic pauses to his rhetoric, which is peppered with apocalyptic comparisons. "If a couple of unsavory characters and enthusiasts managed to shake up the entire world with their attack in Oklahoma, then imagine what we can do with the patriotic motivation, the Islamic devotion, the capability, and the maneuverability of our fighters, our human bombs. We have all the power given to us by the right to return to our occupied land and nobody is going to be able to hold us back — no matter what the cost. One day we will return to our homeland."

Abu Hassan has no illusions, however, that this outcome can be achieved in his generation, much less something he can achieve personally. Perhaps the sons (or "grandsons", as he let slip) of the proto-martyrs who are training so persistently, he said, will accept the physical and political geography of the Middle East which the U.S.-sponsored peace process is managing to secure in the region. In his case, the question is more than just difficult: Like millions of Palestinians in the diaspora, Abu Hassan is the son of refugees from Acco, which since 1948 has been part of the state of Israel. While Arafat is satisfied with Gaza and — in the best- case scenario — all of the West Bank territory which Israel captured in 1967, the hopes of Abu Hassan and half a million Palestinian refugees in Lebanon — not to mention the 2 million in the diaspora — mean that the question is inevitably more complex. "Israel gave 'Arafat the scraps, and he was satisfied with that and did not say a word. This is a betrayal of those of us who supported him. Now, anyone who shakes hands with the enemy is our enemy." When asked if 'Arafat fell into this category, the answer was a firm "yes."

'Arafat's attempts to neutralize what is emerging as the most hardened force against his peace project do not appear to have worked. 'Arafat tried to placate men like Abu Hassan less than three months ago. His invitation to the conference on the future Palestinian strategy was ignored — and apparently not just for ideological reasons: The economic crisis within the PLO has reached such proportions that 'Arafat has reduced his shipments to the Palestinians in Lebanon to the equivalent of $1 per refugee per month. The result is that along with the disappointment at the PLO's political conduct there is also disenchantment with the promises to alleviate the financial hardship of half a million refugees, who are resigned to listening more attentively to the preachings at the mosques because there they denounce — with no beating around the bush — the fact that the longed-for return has turned into a cliche. Many of Abu Hassan's men said that they are not going to receive a single cent of "dirty money."

Mohammed B., a boy of 17, said that he is prepared to fight to the death against Israel and 'Arafat until "Palestine is completely liberated." One of his comrades, he said, was arrested two weeks ago by 'Arafat's Palestinian police in Jericho when they surprised him trying to build a bomb. "He was going to be a suicide driver," he said, "but 'Arafat's men, acting on orders from Israel, arrested him and we have heard nothing of him."

In the yards of Ein El Helweh, between the trenches and tunnels, there is a secret admiration of martyrdom. It should be made clear that no member of the Black 13 September Fatah has managed to sacrifice himself for the cause, but enthusiasm is clearly something which they do not lack.

For example, nobody would give 19-year-old Raduan M. much of a chance in combat. He looks like a young Arab who longs to let loose anywhere, and his T-shirt emblazoned with the colors and logo of an American university masks his deeply rooted anger at the United States and Israel. This young man said that he is ready to go down in the violent history of the Palestinian movement as a human bomb in Israel. Do his parents know, perchance, that one day he will disappear to end up as just another revolutionary poster on the walls of the Palestinian refugee camp where they will venerate the memory of all those who fell in vain? "I have told them of my plans," he said, "and at first they were upset. Later, however, they accepted my decision because they too know that only with the help of Allah and the sacrifice made by the believers will our people one day recover their rights."

Fadlallah on 'Backwardness' of 'Ashura Customs

NC1006070195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called to affirm the political line of Imam al-Husayn in our policy and in our study of reality. He has also called to avoid legal wranglings over some ceremonial activities that show backwardness and negativeness that distort our image. He added: We say to those who favor maintaining some backward 'Ashura customs that 'Ashura can survive without these customs and traditions. He said: We want 'Ashura to express its international role and we want to present it the world in a way that the world will accept it and consider it a progressive and civilized movement. He added: Had these customs been mentioned in the Koran and the Sunnah [Prophet Muhammad's sayings and doings] and had they been issued by the Prophet's household or by our great scholars, we would have accepted them. However, they were adopted by some believers and then were picked up by others. These customs are meaningless and passionless.

Al-Tufayli, al-Musawi on 'Ashura Ceremonies

NC1006075695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Former Hizballah Secretary General] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said that the 'Ashura anniversary will continue to be celebrated regardless of all the circumstances and ordeals. Those who celebrate this anniversary have offered martyrs and have sacrificed so that 'Ashura will continue. He asked about the aims of the campaigns that some have launched against the 'Ashura anniversary rites. He voiced surprise at the media and political campaigns and asked why the orchestrators of these campaigns have considered these rites seditious. Is there a person who can be affected by celebrating the anniversary of Imam al-Husayn and by denouncing what [Ummayyad Caliph] Yazid did, especially as all Muslims love al-Husayn and consider him a martyr of Islam? He asked: Why don't they denounce the song and dance parties that last until midnight in some areas? [passage omitted]

Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, said: We understand the fear that the Americans and Zionists have from the growth of the al-Husayni Islamic Movement. This is the main threat to their expansionist plans against our nation. However, we do not understand why some Muslims have been disturbed by this year's 'Ashura ceremonies.

Casualties Reported in 'Clash' at Palestinian Camp

NC1206195195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp is very tense following today's clashes between armed groups supporting Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat and others opposed to him led by Khalid al-Shayib, official in charge of Fatah in south Lebanon. The situation calmed down in the evening after the Lebanese army issued an ultimatum to the combatants to stop fighting as several shells fell outside the camp in Sidon, in the villas areas, and in al-Ta'mir locality.

Meanwhile, Munir al-Maqdah, leader of the opposition wing in Fatah, said that his forces sided with the al-Shayib groups to settle the situation and put an end to the groups that use the al- Baraksat area to arouse sedition and stir up clashes.

Unidentified sources were cited as saying that efforts are being made to drive Yasir 'Arafat's supporters out of the camp tonight, or they will be forced out.

There is no final count of the casualties, but there are reports that two people were killed and 10 others were injured in the clashes. According to other reports, two were killed and three others were injured.

Fighting Erupts Anew 13 Jun

NC1306070995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The clashes between supporting groups and opponents of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat erupted anew in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this morning. Rockets, mortars, and machine guns are being used in the fighting. All cease-fire agreements, including the agreement reached at 0700 today, collapsed when mediation efforts failed because Munir al- Maqdah, leader of the opposition wing in Fatah, refused to abide by the agreements in view of his cousin's death in the fighting.

The opposition groups launched 10 attacks on the 'Arafat positions. The attacks failed. Reports said 25 people were killed or wounded, including two Lebanese and a journalist working for an international news agency. Many camp inhabitants had to leave for Sidon in view of the heavy fighting.

The opposition group said its forces captured the Jabal al-Halib position and are now advancing toward the al-Baraksat area near the government hospital. All patients in the hospital have been removed to the lower floors. [passage omitted]

Reports indicate that attempts are being made to evacuate the pro-'Arafat fighters from the camp. A Fatah official in Lebanon, Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, said the events were an isolated incident that developed into fierce clashes.

Camp Leader Says Clashes To Go On

NC1306084595 Paris AFP in English 0748 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Lebanon, June 13 (AFP) - Six Palestinians were killed and 25 others wounded in two days of clashes between supporters and opponents of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat at a refugee camp in south Lebanon, hospital workers said Tuesday [13 June].

Violence between the two groups erupted Monday and intensified early Tuesday, turning the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, the largest in Lebanon, into a battleground.

Dozens of families from 'Ayn al-Hulwah's 70,000 inhabitants fled to the nearby port town of Sidon at dawn after a night of heavy fighting which saw 700 rocket explosions shake the camp. [passage omitted]

Munir al-Miqdah, who controls the camp and also opposes 'Arafat's peace accords signed with Israel on Palestinian self-rule in September 1993, joined the dissidents overnight.

Al-Miqdah told AFP that the clashes would not stop until the 'Arafat supporters turned in their men who he said began the fighting. He also demanded the "elimination of the den of corruption," referring to positions of pro-Arafat fighters in 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

He controls the largest and best-armed forces in the camp. [passage omitted]

10 Reportedly Killed in Camp Fighting

NC1306132795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Things remain unstable in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp with sporadic clashes continuing between Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat's supporters and opponents. There are conflicting reports on the military map and the distribution of forces on the ground. Security sources say the situation remains the same, with neither of the disputing sides making gains. AFP reported that the forces loyal to 'Arafat were in control of only a few homes at the northern approach to the camp.

A short time ago it was declared that contacts held by the popular committee in the camp stabilized the cease-fire and led to the formation of a disengagement force from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This force has been deployed in the streets that were the scene of the clashes. [passage omitted]

Earlier today Colonel Munir al-Maqdah said the clashes would not stop until the sources of corruption are destroyed. He was referring to 'Arafat's supporters' posts. al-Maqdah earlier gave his adversaries a deadline to hand over the killers of his cousin, who was killed in the clashes. He threatened to annihilate 'Arafat's supporters in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. Responding to al- Maqdah's threat, Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, the military commander of the forces loyal to 'Arafat, who is barricading himself in the al- Rashidiyah camp near Tyre, said that al-Maqdah tried to occupy our positions last night but failed. He said the continuation of the clashes proves that neither al-Maqdah nor anyone else can unilaterally seize Fatah's decisionmaking. Fatah is not easy pickings, he said.

The clashes raise questions on the situation in the camp, which has turned into the scene of a fierce battle, as AFP reported.

Today's clashes, in which rockets, mortars, and machine guns were used, erupted after al-Maqdah adopted an intransigent stance over the killing of his cousin Jamal al-Maqdah in last night's clashes.

Latest reports say the clashes left 10 people dead and 30 injured. [passage omitted]

Radio Views 'Optimism' Following Christopher Tour

JN1206143095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 12 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region has shown President Bill Clinton administration's interest in the peace process and its desire to achieve progress that will contribute to the realization of peace. The U.S. chief diplomat's optimistic statements indicated that tangible progress has been achieved, and that this progress could be the most important since the launching of the peace process in Madrid approximately four years ago. The thing that perhaps has contributed to this positive result was what Christopher has seen in Damascus in terms of seriousness and concern about the establishment of a comprehensive peace which can last and can hold under all circumstances.

Needless to say, what has been achieved is only one step that must be followed by other serious steps; these steps can be considered the basic bricks to lay the foundations of peace which will be established in this region that has suffered a great deal from the woes of war and for a long time. The region's peoples should now move toward a new era to achieve a peace that safeguards the dignity of all sides and restores rights to their owners.

Although some Israeli officials' statements have shown a tangible change in the nature of the media and political speech in Israel, some other statements still cast doubts on the intentions of the Tel Aviv leaders. We still don't know whether the Israelis are really serious, or are moving slowly one step forward and two steps back. The Israelis are still preoccupied by the issue of security arrangements more than by the nature and the price of this peace. Israeli officials are still determined to prejudge things and to jump to conclusions before preparing the sound beginnings which could lead to these conclusions. What use is it to talk about multifaceted relations at a time when Israel still adopts an ambiguous stand toward the issue of withdrawal from the Golan and the depth of this withdrawal, taking into consideration that the UN resolutions on this issue are clear? These resolutions stress the inadmissibility of the occupation of the Arab territories or parts of them.

The Tel Aviv leaders know full well that Syria is not ready to compromise on its territory under any circumstances, and that full withdrawal from the Golan is the key to peace. When we talk about full withdrawal, then the meaning is clear and cannot be misinterpreted; namely, withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is included in the relevant international resolutions. The issue of testing Syria's intentions is no longer valid after the U.S. Administration, through President Bill Clinton and its chief diplomat Warren Christopher, stressed Syria's commitment to peace as a strategic option. This was confirmed by world public opinion and political circles.

If the peace talks, which will be resumed in Washington this month at the military and political levels, are wanted to achieve the hoped-for progress, then Israel should translate its words into deeds and openly announce its readiness to withdraw from all the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines. When Israel does so, we can then say that peace has become imminent. However, we do not believe that returning to talk about partial, long-term phased withdrawals would contribute to creating an encouraging atmosphere which has basically been created by Syria's positive stands, particularly during Secretary Christopher's presence in Damascus two days ago.

Syria has repeatedly said that peace is its strategic option and that it is ready for the objective requirements of this peace. Undoubtedly, peace needs both sides' desires, efforts, and intentions. Peace cannot be established unless the two sides' approach toward this objective was sincere. The move, which has recently taken place, could become a serious move on the road to a true, just, and comprehensive peace if Israel does not set out new obstacles.

The optimism created by Secretary Christopher's tour of the region will turn into pessimism if Israeli leaders continue their contradictory statements which have nothing to do with the essence and bases of peace. If differences are still big, Syria is not responsible for them, for it is committed to peace and its bases, and to the UN resolutions. When Israel will have the same degree of Syria's commitment, then moving to the stage of peace will become an established fact, not mere talk and dreams.

Progress in Washington Talks 'Depends on Israel'

JN1306100995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 13 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH speaks about Syria's position which safeguards Arab rights. It says: The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] yesterday reviewed the latest political developments, especially those related to the peace process. The NPF has asserted that Syria adheres to the objective of just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option that leads to the restoration of territory and rights, in accordance with UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH adds: The policy followed by President al-Asad honestly and sincerely reflects the higher interests of the Arab nation. Recent developments in the peace process have confirmed the soundness of Syria's position in defending the Arab destiny.

The paper adds: Syria has asserted, through President al-Asad and the Central Command of the NPF, that what is required in the peace process is real progress on the ground, Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines, and setting up reciprocal [mutaqabilah], equal [mutasawiyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements. When Syria reasserts this, it speaks on behalf of the Arab nation that admires Syria's honorable position and plans for a bright future.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria has worked for a just and comprehensive peace. This will be achieved when Israel submits to the resolutions of international legitimacy. Any talk other than this is only a fresh blow and clear obstruction of the peace efforts and obligations.

In its editorial, TISHRIN asserts that Syria can never cede one inch of its territory. Syria can never be dragged toward positions that do not meet its interests and those of the displaced people of the Golan.

The paper adds: Full peace requires full Israeli withdrawal and the return of the occupying Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines. The paper stresses that the Syrian position is unchanging and principled. The Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial, and shall never be up for bargaining.

TISHRIN says a just and comprehensive peace is the best guarantee of security. There can be no security outside the context of peace. Occupation has not provided security for Israel. The continuation of occupation will also not provide security for it.

TISHRIN says the actions of the extremist forces in Israel are only meant to blow up the peace process, undermine the progress made thus far, and take the region back to the atmosphere of war.

The paper concludes: Dotting the i's and emphasizing the constants and requirements of peace and the need for full withdrawal are the responsibility of any government in Israel that sincerely seeks to achieve peace in the Middle East on firm and permanent foundations.

In its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says Syria has said time and again that restoring the Golan in full is a sacred issue that is not negotiable. Syria will continue to adhere to the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines. Syria considers this the only prelude to the achievement of a true peace.

The paper says Syria's adherence to the objective requirements of peace places the U.S. sponsor before its historic responsibility. This should also make Israel drop its proposals which do not help achieve peace, but only foster feelings of disappointment and frustration.

AL-THAWRAH hopes that the talks that will resume in Washington late this month will take place in light of new realities that help to achieve the required progress. The paper says progress in the talks and the extent of their success depends on Israel and how committed it is to the requirements and conditions of peace. These are spelled out in the resolutions of international legitimacy, the principle of equitable and balanced peace on both sides of the border, and Israel's recognition of withdrawal from the Golan. If this happens, this will be a good and encouraging beginning that allows larger steps toward permanent and firm peace.

'Sincere' Israeli Intentions Toward Talks Urged

JN0906174195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 9 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Wanted Response," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today: At a time when the United States is intensifying its efforts to lay firm bases for the resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks, at the expert level and with U.S. participation, U.S. President Bill Clinton has reasserted that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace. He pointed out that despite the difficulties, there will be an opportunity to achieve peace this year.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This U.S. assertion is not new. However, it is vitally important at this particular phase in which the peace process is experiencing a crucial turning point that can lead to real, tangible progress if there are sincere Israeli intentions to address the bases of peace, if Israel responds to the requirements of this process, and if it also accurately implements the framework of principles on the agreed security arrangements on the Syrian track.

The paper notes that on all occasions and in all moves or contacts with the U.S. cosponsor, Syria has stressed its firm adherence to peace based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. Moreover, Syria has always emphasized that the interest in a just and comprehensive peace does not mean relinquishing land or bargaining over dignity and sovereignty. When Syria announced that peace is its strategic option, it meant the kind of peace that will return its land and the national and pan- Arab rights.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: We in Syria have frequently stressed our full commitment to the principles of peace, as well as our constant readiness to implement the UN resolutions concerning peace, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Syria has also worked sincerely to render the peace efforts a success, and it has provided more than one opportunity to open the way for peace after Israel frequently deadlocked it.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the Israeli officials' statements that the Golan is Syrian territory do not add anything new to reality and will not give a push to the peace process unless Israel shows readiness to withdraw completely from the Golan and to fully implement the UN Resolutions on the Golan.

The paper adds: The issue of implementing equitable, equal, and balanced [al-mutakafi'ah, wa al-mutasawiyah, wa al-mutawaziyah] security arrangements on the 4 June 1967 lines will be a real test of Israeli intentions. Israel should thus abandon the policy of maneuvering and tampering with words and should earnestly abide by the bases of the peace process.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, which announced its adherence to the bases of the peace process, and which is fully interested in rendering this process a success, once again emphasizes its known constants regarding peace, as well as its strong adherence to its rights.

Progressive Front Welcomes Peace 'Understanding'

JN1206185395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the National Progress Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1830 today under the chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and vice chairman of the NPF. The command listened to a political report presented by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in which he discussed a number of Arab, regional, and international political issues.

The command reviewed the latest political developments, particularly with regard to the peace process and the understanding which has been achieved regarding some points and concepts which would be a sign of development in the talks. The command considered this a further step along the road, adding that what is required is to achieve real progress on the ground based on full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border and on setting reciprocal [mutaqabil], equitable [mutakafi'], and equal [mutasawi] security arrangements on both sides.

The command reaffirmed Syria's adherence to the objective of a just and comprehensive peace and its commitment to continue its endeavor to reach it being a strategic option for Syria which will result in restoring the land and rights in accordance with the UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy.

The command reviewed the current Arab situation and found that the state of deterioration which our Arab nation is passing through should not push us toward despair. Our nation is a living one; it cannot die or disappear and no international changes can annul our nation, its heritage, or the values it represents.

The command reiterated that safeguarding ourselves and identities cannot be achieved automatically, but we should work hard and struggle to achieve this. The command expressed the view that regardless of time, our nation will find the appropriate formula which will embody its genuineness, preserve its interests, and safeguard its threatened fate.

The Command greeted the national and pan-Arab stands adopted by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. It found in these stands an honest expression of the higher pan-Arab interests. The command also highly valued the big efforts exerted by President Hafiz al-Asad to champion the nation's steadfastness, to avert the dangers threatening it, to safeguard the pan-Arab fate, and to preserve Arab rights. The command believes that these efforts embody the firm political course to which Syria adheres and which represents well the values, history, and heritage of the nation.

Damascus TV Discusses Arab Solidarity, Peace Stand

JN1106193395 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jun 95

["Behind the News" feature read by Raja Farzali]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the early 1990's, President Hafiz al-Asad sounded the alarm, calling on the Arabs to unite their stands, views, and decisions in the face of international changes which accompanied the end of the Cold War and the fall of bilateral polarization. The new international situation, which began to emerge, had not yet taken its final shape, and the options of the coming century were still open for major conflicts, disputes, and changes which must be addressed on the Arab level through a pan-Arab view which would maintain a minimum level of Arab solidarity. This Arab solidarity should produce a Arab working strategy which can interact with the world to achieve Arab interests and guarantee Arab rights. This strategy should also be able to resolve Arab contradictions which are caused by policies of axes and individual adventures, which have greatly endangered the nation and its future.

The president's view, his reading of the reality, and forecast of the future were not only sound, but they have always represented the clear way to salvage the Arab situation from its current deterioration which exacerbated following the first and second Gulf wars and from the big crack inflicted on the Arab fold.

Syrian efforts have always focused on rectifying the imbalance in the Arab situation and to enlighten the Arab brothers on the dangers threatening them regardless of the pretexts used by some to justify their course that conflicts with the interests of the nation and of their people and is geared toward serving the enemies who implement their designs in the region supported by Arab conflicts, fragmentation, and failure to achieve solidarity.

The Arab brothers know now what the situation would be like now had they entrenched Arab solidarity which would have saved the nation from the consequences of the destructive adventurous policy in the two Gulf wars.

However, what calls for optimism is the fact that the idea of Arab solidarity has not been buried by events. In fact, it began to take root in Arab reality despite the winds and storms which are trying to deviate the Arab ship from its course which maintains its identity and protect its pan-Arab decisionmaking.

Experiments have deepened the feeling of the need to face dangers and future with an effective Arab stand which disregards bilateral differences and proceeds from what Syria has been exercising in its Arab policy since 1970; namely, Arab solidarity and serious endeavors to resolve Arab differences and to help Arab situation deal with the world in accordance with the bases of cooperation, mutual respect, and guaranteeing rights far away from all forms of hegemony.

Gentlemen: In light of this Syrian pan-Arab policy, which has borne fruit in restoring fraternal relations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen — something which was expressed by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by thanking President Hafiz al-Asad for his efforts in this regard — and a continuous effort to finalize the practical bases to save the Arabs from this deteriorating situation and to achieve true solidarity in accordance with the principles of the Alexandria summit among President Hafiz al-Asad, President Husni Mubarak, and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in light of this policy, which adheres to constants regarding the issues of the nation and the homeland, Syria, which stressed that peace is its strategic option, has not changed anything in its stand to the effect that peace must be just and comprehensive and proceed from the bases of the Madrid conference. It was dragged behind the separate deals policy, but warned against the dangers of relinquishing Arab coordination during the negotiations, and against diverting from the terms of reference of the Madrid conference. Moreover, it has not rushed to the multilateral talks, but warned the Arab brothers not to be dragged to them before achieving a true progress in the process of a comprehensive peace.

Peace has its own pillars which cannot be bypassed. The most important of these pillars are Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders and its implementation of Resolution 425 on Lebanon. This provides a basis for the implementation of the land-for-peace principle and for the establishment of ordinary ['adiyah] peace relations which guarantee security and stability for all parties. Thus, nullifying all the Israeli ideas which used security as a pretext to achieve gains on the ground, as well as other gains. This issue was clearly expressed by U.S. President Bill Clinton when he said that the security of any party must not be at the expense of the other party.

So, security must be equitable [mutakafi'], equal [mutasawi], and balanced [mutawazin] in order to lay the bases of a true and comprehensive peace.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Views Peace Efforts, Foreign Assistance

LD1206181095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the presidency reported to BIA that esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was interviewed at the Golkhana Palace yesterday morning by [words indistinct] and the reporter of a Hindu newspaper in India. While explaining the situation in the country in response to a question about the peace prospects in the country, Rabbani said: By the grace of God, military and political situations develop in the direction of stability and improvement. Every day more opportunities come about in the country for the ensuring of permanent peace. Pursuing the policy of peace and reconciliation, Afghanistan has opened the doors of understanding and negotiation. We are confident that in pursuing this sensible and calculated policy, peace will be restored in our country very soon.

Answering a question about the reasons for the failure of the UN peace efforts and Mr. Mestiri's mission, Rabbani said: The failure of Mr. Mestiri's mission has many reasons. [Words indistinct] another reason is that his plan was not, as was expected, drafted correctly. It was worked out in a disorganized manner and intermittently. Similarly, his work to ensure peace was dragging on for a long time, and there was procrastination with regard to the elections of the provincial representatives.

In connection with the visits of the U.S. and Russian delegations that have been paid to Kabul recently, Rabbani noted: The visits were exploratory. While we welcome such visits, we say that the leaders of foreign countries should not be spectators with regard to the Afghan problems and events. While peace is being ensured in our country, the reconstruction and revival of the country is continuing. Foreign countries—especially Russia and the United States—must assist this process. First, they should open their embassies in Kabul.

It is to be mentioned that the Russian delegation conveyed during its stay in Kabul the readiness of its country to reopen its embassy in Kabul and to assist the reconstruction process in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is committed to ensuring the security of foreign countries' diplomats and experts.

CIS Official, Delegation Pay Visit to Kabul

Greeted at Airport

LD0706194495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct], head of the Collective Security Council of the CIS, arrived today in Kabul at a head of a three-man delegation. BAKHTAR reported to us that he was received at Kabul international airport by Dr. 'Abdorrahman, acting minister of civil aviation and tourism; esteemed Engineer Mohammad Arif, first deputy president of the national security; esteemed Warsaji, head of the international affairs of the presidency; a number of high-ranking state officials; a number of army Generals; the governor of Kabul, and some heads of the national security departments.

Cited on 'Black Spots' in Past Ties

LD1006182695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received [name indistinct], head of the security and defense council of the parliament of the Russian Federation and the CIS, and an accompanying delegation. After reviewing traditional bilateral relations, the head of the Russian parliamentary delegation said: There were black spots at a certain historic juncture in Afghan-Russian relations, the culprit being the leaderships of the former Soviet Union and Afghanistan at that time. Then the proposals of the Russian parliamentarians for resolving our country's problems were presented in detail. It is hoped that effective steps will be taken so as to achieve complete political stability and the strengthening of the central government through the continuation of talks.

Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, after welcoming the delegation, welcomed the efforts of the Russian Federation Parliament, and then outlined the viewpoints of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the submitted proposals.

Convey 'Readiness' To Open Embassy

LD1106170995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Petrovich Shirshov, head of the defense and security committee of the parliament of the Russian Federation and the CIS, at the Golkhana Palace this morning. The press office of the presidency reported to BIA that, noting the betterment of the situation in the country, the intensification of the peace process, and the measures taken by the Islamic State in this respect, Rabbani said: Afghanistan is of the opinion that the effective way to ensure peace is the continuation of the dialogue and talks among the involved sides and the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. We can thereby put an end to the war.

Submitting a message from the Russian Government to the Afghan president, Shirshov conveyed in response the readiness of his country to open its embassy in Kabul and to grant economic aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan Condemned for Forging Bank Notes

LD1006184895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Central Bank of Afghanistan has asked the United Nations and other international organizations to condemn the government of Uzbekistan for printing forged 1,000 afghani bank notes, an action contrary to all national and international principles and norms, as well as being contrary to the principle of good-neighborliness.

This point was made to domestic and foreign journalists at a news conference held today by Abdol Qadir Fetrat, acting head of the Central Bank. He said:

[Begin Fetrat recording] In open and blatant military interference, the government of Uzbekistan has embarked on printing forged 1,000 afghani banknotes. By trampling on intrnationally recognized principles, the government of Uzbekistan is intervening in the monetary affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan by printing 1,000 afghani banknotes and placing them at the disposal of Dostam's militia. For the last two months , the banknotes have been put into circulation by Dostam's militiamen in several northern provinces of Afghanistan. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Opposition Forces Continue Advance on Konduz City

LD1106200895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0240 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After breaching the security belt in the Aliabad subdistrict in Konduz Province, the High Coordination Council [HCC] forces are now continuing their advance toward the center of the province. A responsible HCC source told our correspondent that, in addition to the aforementioned incident, three important and fortified positions of the Supervisory Council were captured yesterday by the HCC forces in Khanabad, Konduz Province. The report adds that the HCC forces have also captured two mortars, (?three) ZK1 machine guns, and three [words indistinct] and that the Supervisory Council's armed men have elected to flee.

Government Reportedly Capture Dostam Troops

LD1306101395 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, June 13, IRNA — Afghan Government forces Tuesday [13 June] claimed to have captured about 300 fighters of Uzbek warlord General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam following a fierce fighting in northern Afghanistan.

Afghan Government sources said that Dostam troops surrendered after forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani launched a severe attack on their positions in northern Jowzjan province on Monday.

According to these sources, five fighters of Dostam lost their lives during the fighting and 12 sustained injuries while the rest led by their General Din Muhammad gave in to government troops.

The two sides have been locked in severe fighting for the last two weeks in the northern provinces of Samangan, Konduz and in Khinjan district of Baghlan province.

India

Rao Addresses National Issues, Pakistan, France

BR1206121995 Paris LE FIGARO in French 12 Jun 95 p 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao by Thierry Desjardins and Francois Gauthier in Delhi; date not given: "Narasimha Rao: "I am Only Continuing Nehru's Work" — first paragraph is LE FIGARO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao starts a two-day official visit to France. Little known outside his own country, this 73 year old Brahman, who came to power by chance following the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, has for the past four years been carrying out a daring policy of economic opening, enabling him to pull India's economy out of the gulf into which it plunged in 1991. But, whilst all the international organizations are applauding the initial successes of this economic policy, Mr. Rao has, for the last few months, had to face general discontent in the domestic policy area, leading to a series of electoral disasters, at times to the benefit of Hindu extremists. At the same time Muslims, who are traditional Congress Party supporters, are angry at Mr. Rao for his policy of repressing (Muslim) militants who are calling for independence in Kashmir. Mr. Rao was scheduled to come to Paris to give a speech to the UNESCO to mark the 125th anniversary of Gandhi's birth. From the day after President Chirac's election, he wanted this long-scheduled visit to UNESCO to turn into an official visit to France. The Indian prime minister is arriving accompanied by a very large delegation of very high level Indian businessmen. Before leaving Delhi, in his own words "very excited and hopeful," he granted an interview to the FIGARO.

[LE FIGARO] Economists from around the world acknowledge that, since coming to power in 1991, you have succeeded in bringing about an astonishing economic revolution by liberalizing India's economy, accepting the principle of privatization, and welcoming foreign capital, in short, making a deliberate break with the Socialist economy which was dear to Nehru, and which had held absolute sway in India for 35 years. Today growth has exceeded 5 percent. How do you yourself judge the success of your economic policy?

[Rao] It is true that, since June 1991, things have clearly been going better throughout the country. Industrial production has beaten numerous records and is rising very regularly. Industrial and agricultural investment have both increased. All this is very encouraging and proves that we are on the right track. This having been said, I do not agree with the word "revolution." The reforms which I have undertaken are no more than a continuation, I would say an adaptation to circumstances, of the policy conducted by the Congress Party since independence. I am only continuing Nehru's work. I am a pragmatist as were Nehru and Indira and Rajiv [Gandhi]. In this context, I am furious when I still hear certain westerners today present Nehru as a crypto-communist. If Nehru was forced to accept help from Moscow, it was simply because the whole world turned its back on him. It was not a political choice of his. It was in order to be able to build steelworks and because the West answered him that it was not the thing for a poor country to build steelworks.

[LE FIGARO] But Nehru nonetheless turned the Indian into a socialist economy.

[Rao] No, not at all. Eighty percent of our economy has always been agriculture, and the fact is that farming has never been nationalized. What is true is that, at the time, only the state had the resources to build the fertilizer factories which were essential for the country. It was therefore necessary to create state factories. But this has never meant that India's economy was socialist, and it is this situation which permits us nowadays to launch ourselves into a very liberal economy, something which Russia, because it was totally socialized, has been unable to do.

[LE FIGARO] Whilst the results of your economic policy please the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and foreign observers, they appear to be less well appreciated by Indians themselves. Some of your opponents state that, whilst this liberalization has permitted the rise of a new small bourgeoisie, it has also worsened the situation of the poorest.

[Rao] That is absurd. For years we have encouraged, in particular with the help of protectionism, a genuine Indian economy. Of course it is the bourgeoisie which has benefited most from this. But at the same time we have always considered it our duty to help the most disadvantaged, to prevent them being left by the wayside. Today, now that my government has granted a greater role to the private sector, the state, freed from a large portion of its economic functions, can devote even more public money to relieving poverty. And, unlike what our opponents are saying, the living conditions of the poorest have not worsened, rather the contrary. At the same time as opening up the economy, we have been able to raise wages, reduce unemployment, and to introduce, for the first time in India's history, a genuine social security system for the most disadvantaged members of the population. Moreover, our last budget perfectly symbolized our double objective: Continuing to develop rapid economic growth, whilst multiplying our efforts in favor of the most disadvantaged.

[LE FIGARO] Some people are saying that you might review this liberalization policy.

[Rao] This is out of the question, but we are ready to modulate it to circumstances, in order to avoid clashes both with the laws of the market and with public opinion. Our direction is clear. Everyone knows it and we are going to continue on this path.

[LE FIGARO] What do you mean by the "middle path" which you have evoked so often recently? Does it mean taking your time in order not to upset people too much?

[Rao] The "middle path" is the path of reason and moderation. It is the very essence of Indian philosophy. It is harmony and the path of peace. It is not the easiest road, because it is the one which reject the extremes.

[LE FIGARO] The last regional elections cost the Congress Party four seats (Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, your own state, and Gujarat). Today, at local level, the Congress Party governs no more than 200 million of India's 900 million inhabitants. What do you put this disaffection down to?

[Rao] There are ups and down in political life, providing one has the good fortune to be in a democracy. In my own state, Andhra Pradesh, and in Maharashtra, not a single opinion poll had foretold our debacle. What is it due to? I do not know. Perhaps purely local discontent. Perhaps because we were unable to explain our economic policy sufficiently and, of course, people did not immediately see the effects. In any event, we are going to correct the mistakes which may have been made, start a major campaign to explain things and, more especially, make the necessary changes, even within the party, in order to confront the 1996 national elections in a completely different context. The Congress Party has a long history of electoral successes and failures, but it has always demonstrated an ability to pull itself together when necessary.

[LE FIGARO] These recent elections have revealed, in particular in Bombay, the rise of Hindu extremists who have become the masters of Maharashtra. Does the saffron banner represent a danger for the Indian Union?

[Rao] Unfortunately it happens that, from time to time, certain political parties, playing on religion or the caste system, win elections. But their victories are always ephemeral, and this does not correspond to the Indian soul. Extremism is foreign to our mentality. Moreover, when these extremist parties reach power, they very quickly abandon their earlier slogans, as the realities of Indian life impose themselves on them.

[LE FIGARO] But how do you explain this rise of religious fanaticism?

[Rao] I assure you that religious fanaticism is a marginal phenomenon in India. When it comes to Hinduism, I as a Hindu can tell you that, by its very definition, Hinduism, true Hinduism, cannot give birth to fanaticism. Nor should one confuse religious fundamentalism, religious fanaticism, and electoral demagogy. I am not naive and I have already seen many things during my career. I have become convinced that bread and butter always end up replacing the temple and the mosque.

[LE FIGARO] Whilst you have succeeded in quelling the insurrection of the Sikh independence fighters in the Punjab, in Kashmir, on the other hand, where a Muslim guerrilla independence movement is displaying its presence, the situation appears to be worsening despite massive military presence. For you, is this a nationalist movement or an Islamic response to Hindu integrism?

[Rao] Hindu integrism and Kashmir separatism, all this is meaningless in India. These are westerners' explanations. There have always been killings in India. One tribe kills another tribe in Nagaland. Day and night Hindus kill each other. No one talks about this. Catholics massacre each other at Manipur. No one talks about this. Killing is killing! It is only when a Hindu kills a Muslim that people talk about it. In the case of Kashmir, we are dealing with bands of terrorists who make newspaper headlines by committing crimes because they lack popular support. They are attempting to impose themselves by fear.

[LE FIGARO] This war has been going on for five years and has already caused thousands of deaths. What can you offer the Kashmiri rebels in order to secure peace?

[Rao] My government is ready for dialogue in the Kashmir. We are ready to talk with anyone, providing the kalashnikovs are put in the cupboard. We are agreeable to seeking a solution within the framework of the Indian constitution. But the situation is complicated because this affair is not limited to the Kashmiris...

[LE FIGARO] Is this rebellion receiving foreign support?

[Rao] The Kashmiri separatist militants are being financed, armed, and trained by Pakistan. We have irrefutable proof of this and we know that there are foreign mercenaries who provoke the situation and set fire to the sacred and ancient sanctuaries of Kashmir. We are trying to close the frontier to this infiltration from Pakistan, but the task is difficult, given the very nature of the terrain. Since independence, our major problems have been located in the Punjab and Kashmir, which, as if by chance, are the two states bordering on Pakistan. We know that Pakistan dreams of grabbing Kashmir, by force if necessary. It has been dreaming of this since 1947.

[LE FIGARO] On the subject of Pakistan, are you still as concerned at Islamabad's atomic policy?

[Rao] We are very concerned at Pakistan's nuclear program. We have tried to draw the world's attention to this danger. In vain.

[LE FIGARO] But you too have a nuclear bomb?

[Rao] No. The Pakistanis have a nuclear bomb, we do not. It is true that we have the means to produce one, but we have never taken this step. Today the whole world wants us to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We believe that, in the present context, we cannot throw away all our options like that. I would take this occasion to remind you that India has always been very moderate in response to Pakistani nuclear provocation.

We have always worked for peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation on the sub-continent. It is in this spirit that I held out an offer of dialogue to [Pakistani Prime Minister] Ms. Bhutto in October 1994, in order to resolve all our bilateral problems. This offer still holds. I am ready to extend a hand once again to Benazir Bhutto.

[LE FIGARO] To return to domestic politics, is not the Congress Party, which you preside and which is more than 100 years old, not turning a little sclerotic?

[Rao] I do not believe that the Congress Party is a degenerate party. It is alive and active. When we returned to power in 1991, my government saved India from the economic bankruptcy into which V.P. Singh's government had plunged it, and we introduced a whole series of economic and other changes which have enabled the country to meet the new challenges of the post-Cold War period. The Congress Party has always been and remains at the forefront of political change, and I am convinced that this will continue.

[LE FIGARO] How should we interpret the present splits within the party?

[Rao] There is no schism within the party. There are simply a few leaders who are frustrated at not having my position and who have formed a rebel party. Their departure has made the party stronger and more united.

[LE FIGARO] You are a great science fiction fan. How do you foresee India in the 21st century?

[Rao] I see India emerging as a modern and prosperous country. Our people's genius, paralyzed for years by poverty and colonialism, has already begun to express itself. I see a collective explosion of energies which will quickly lead India to play a key role in world prosperity and peace.

[LE FIGARO] How do you see the balance of forces in tomorrow's world?

[Rao] The end of the Cold War has reduced tensions and removed the threat of a nuclear holocaust. The Cold War had aborted every attempt to establish a world peace and we have been prevented from undertaking the only struggle which is worth the effort, the struggle against poverty, hunger, and disease. It is now our duty to harness ourselves to this task through developing international cooperation. The major international organizations must become more democratic, more equitable, in order to respond to the needs of developing countries. We have already made a certain amount progress in this direction, but their is still a lot to do, because new threats are appearing: terrorism, drugs traffic, religious fundamentalism, and various forms of separatism.

[LE FIGARO] Does India's non-alignment, which in fact was nothing more than a badly-disguised alignment behind Moscow, still make any sense?

[Rao] Yes, the world has changed, it is true, but the idea of non-alignment is far from out-of-date. Non-alignment is the expression of developing countries who wish to consolidate their independence and promote their economic development by a system of mutual cooperation. Non-alignment represents a seeking for a just and equitable world in which every country will play its role. We have always been convinced that the problems facing mankind today, whether nuclear threat, environmental degradation, or the growing gap between rich and poor, all call for close international cooperation and multilateral action. Non-alignment has an essential role to play here, because it is important that the third world not become a fourth world unable to get its voice heard by the major nations who have shut themselves up in egotistical protectionism.

[LE FIGARO] What role do you see Europe playing in the years to come?

[Rao] We attach great importance to relations with a united Europe. Our political dialogue has been institutionalized through an "India-Common Market troika" [troika indo-marche commun]. Europe is our largest partner in terms of trade, joint ventures and technology transfer. In this period of transition with a unipolar tendency, the unique and strong route taken by the European Union will contribute to creating a new and pluralist world. At the economic level we would of course like for Europe to remain open to the outside world. It is important for India that markets remain accessible just when we are in the process of opening up our economy. We need a friendly international environment, based on an equitable commercial system.

[LE FIGARO] Have relations between Paris and Delhi moved forward since your last journey to France?

[Rao] Our relations with France have always been friendly, marked by mutual understanding and close cooperation. These relations should continue to intensify. My visit is part of this process and I hope to be able to give a new dynamism to these relations. First of all I shall be reminding my French interlocutors that the economic reforms in India have created new opportunities for expanding Franco-Indian economic relations. I am then going to ask French industrialists and businessmen to increase their presence on the Indian market, by emphasizing our evident complementarities in the form of French high technology and India's immense reserves of qualified manpower.

[LE FIGARO] Are you going, as the Indian press is saying, to ask Jacques Chirac for SN 39 sea-to-sea missiles in response to the three Agosta submarines which France has sold to Pakistan?

[Rao] I am looking forward to being able to exchange with President Chirac who, I know, has a particular interest in India, our wishes and opinions on a whole series of global and regional problems. For example, I would also like to know Paris' viewpoint on the question of the restructuring of the United Nations, to make this body more representative. I believe that the French are among the people best able to understand India. Like a lot of Indians I was flabbergasted when, in 1980, during an official visit to Delhi, the president of the French Republic asked to visit Benares. It was the first time that a foreign head of state had shown a desire to understand the quintessence of Indian tradition. Yes, I am convinced that the French and Indians can understand each other. They still need to speak with each other more often.

Commentary Previews Rao's Visit to France

BK1106090795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jun 95

[Commentary by Shama Prasad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister is leaving for Paris this afternoon. The four-day visit of Mr. Narashima Rao is likely to further strengthen the political ties and to give a boost to stagnant bilateral trade. One of the main engagements of Mr. Rao in Paris is to deliver the inaugural lecture for series on Mahatma Gandhi organized by the UNESCO. The theme of the lecture is Gandhi in global village and it reflects the reality of the day in many ways. In the present day world with rise in population in different nations it has become inevitable to be interdependent for improving living standards. The theme also gains relevance in the context of the ideals of the Mahatma like truth, nonviolence, tolerance, and amity between nations.

It is in this context that the visit is also aimed at improving the living standards of the large sections in India whose cause was most dear to the father of the nation. The present government has taken to the path of liberalization and seeks to promote more investments in the country for this purpose. During the present visit also the prime minister will endeavor to attract more investments from France. His first engagement is to address the captains of the Indian and French industries. He is likely to have an open house with French businessmen to allay their fears on investments in India. The 27-member Indian business delegation will be in Paris during Mr. Rao's visit to promote cooperation with French industry.

The prime minister will be holding discussions with the new French president, Mr. Jacques Chirac. He will also meet the French prime minister, Mr. Alain Juppe, and other ministers to discuss bilateral and other matters of mutual interest. Subjects of investment protection guarantee and extradition treaty on which the two countries are presently working out agreements would come up for discussion at these meetings. Aspects of intensified cooperation in the fields of culture, science and technology, space and defense are also expected to be discussed. The issue of shared concern of the two countries on the rise in terrorism and fundamentalism in various parts of the world will also be a topic for discussion.

India and France have no political problems between them and share a common perception on major global issues. On Kashmir, the French position has been very positive and it has always opposed any suggestion to internationalize the issue. France has consistently urged that a solution to the Kashmir issue must be found through bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan.

Rao Departs for France on State Visit

BK1106120095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister left New Delhi for Paris this afternoon on a four-day state visit to France. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues and senior officials. The departure of the prime minister was delayed by about two hours and 45 minutes due to technical reasons. During his stay there, Mr. Narasimha Rao will have talks with the French president, Jacques Chirac, and Prime Minister Alain Juppe on bilateral and other issues.

A 27-member Indian business delegation will also be in Paris during Mr. Rao's visit. The prime minister will deliver the inaugural lecture in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi tomorrow. A series of lectures have been organized by the UNESCO to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of the Mahatma. Our correspondent says the visit is expected to give impetus to bilateral trade and investment. It will also help coordinate the response of the two countries to the growing menace of terrorism and fundamentalism.

Paris is all dressed up to accord a warm and affectionate welcome to the prime minister as he arrives in the French capital later today. AIR special correspondent, (Harish Sagon), reports from Paris that considerable importance is being attached to the visit by the French Government which has described relations between the two countries as very good. Official sources in Paris have expressed the hope that the visit will strengthen these relations further so that the two countries can work as partners in various fields. Our correspondent adds that the French press has carried several editorials and special features on Mr. Narasimha Rao along with his photographs describing him as the architect of economic reforms in India.

Minister Concerned About Pakistan's Arms Stockpile

BK1006155495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has reiterated its offer for talks with Pakistan without any precondition to improve bilateral relations. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta today, the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that even though there is no response from Pakistan to the offer, New Delhi is prepared for discussions at the official or ministerial level at any place and any time. Expressing serious concern at the stockpiling of arms by Pakistan, Mr. Mukherjee said India would not compromise with its security in view of Islamabad's increasing efforts to acquire modern aircraft from the United States.

Iran

Editorial: U.S. Planning 'Propaganda Attack'

LD1206193395 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — A Persian morning daily wrote here Monday [12 June] that the U.S. was planning another political and propaganda attack on Iran in the coming G-7 meeting in Canada's Halifax and said Washington was willing to hinder others from safeguarding their own interests in Iran.

Doubting that the seven industrial countries would ever allow the U.S. to dictate them their trade priorities and partners and the way they should behave with other countries, the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily noted in its editorial that the U.S. failed to adopt a friendly attitude to the Islamic Republic due to its previous hostile policies the continuation of which deprived it from the opportunity for good.

It said Washington wanted other countries to cut their ties with iran to please the U.S. while its allies wondered that if Iran deserved such serious punishments why the U.S. itself kept asking for resumption of relations with Iran.

Noting that other countries totally ignored the U.S. appeal to them to cut their ties with Iran, the editorial wrote that the U.S. was unhappy about the fact that other industrial countries did not lose the opportunity to take adventage of absence of the U.S. in the profitable market of Iran to stabilize themselves instead.

The industrial countries even wished the U.S. threats to become more serious and comprehensive so that the European and Japanese companies would replace the American ones in Iran, it added.

It further commented that the U.S. hoped to state it was the sole leader of western world in the post Cold War era and that the other countries would follow whatever was dictated to them by Washington without ever questioning it.

It stressed that the President Clinton's proposed trade embargo against Iran not only failed to attract any positive answers from any independent country but it proved the democrats' lack of efficeincy to lead the U.S. foregin policy thus lowering their chance of victory in the coming presidential elections.

The main point here, the daily believed, was that Washington officials had lied to their allies to such an extent that nobody trusted them at the least any longer becuase the U.S. failed to provide the least documents that Iran supported terrorism or tried to gain access to nuclear weapons.

The daily also remarked that this explicitly meant that all U.S. propaganda against Iran originated from sheer hostility towards the Islamic revolution.

In such conditions, the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI concluded, Clinton should not expect the Halifax meeting to be successful but rather it was all but too natural that he would make the utmost efforts only to prove that he was not that inefficient.

Ukrainian Envoy: Continued Ties Despite U.S. Ban

LD1306103495 Tehran IRNA in English 0819 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA — Ukrainian Ambassador to Iran, Ivan G. Maydan, said that in spite of the U.S. trade embargo against Iran, there will be no change in relations between Ukraine and Iran in this regard.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES published Tuesday [13 June], he underlined that since January 1992 major developments have occurred in bilateral relations between the two countries. He added that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will visit Ukraine late summer or early autumn this year to further boost bilateral relations.

"We have signed 25 agreements and protocols, the most important of which was the declaration on Iran-Ukraine relations," he noted adding that, most of its articles have been implemented, but we need further cooperation in economic fields.

"There have been major developments in trade between the two countries," he stressed and added, "trade was dlrs. 50 million last year and we hope for an increase of 20 percent this year."

There has been an increase in Iran-Ukraine cooperation in heavy and light industries, electricity, culture, science and tourism, the paper quoted the ambassador as saying. He said that during the visit to Ukraine of the Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, an agreement was signed between the two countries in order to develop bilateral ties.

He further emphasized the exchange of university students between the two countries, saying that more than 720 Iranian students study in Ukraine's universities.

Maydan also underlined that his country has participated in several trade exhibitions in Tabriz, Esfahan, and Tehran, while there are permanent Iranian exhibitions in Ukraine. Pointing to Iran and Ukraine cooperation at the international level, he stated that both the republics participate in international bodies, such as the United Nations and the U.N. Committee on Human Rights.

"Due to post-independence problems, we have not been able to expand our trade," he said adding, "now that Ukraine has been stabilized we can expand our relations with other countries."

Commenting on recent accord signed between Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet, the ambassador noted that it is politically important since the two countries agreed to settle their problems amicably.

A protocol was signed by Iran, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan for further cooperation in the field of gas and oil, he mentioned adding, "This protocol will be to the benefit of all regional countries."

On quadrilateral meeting of Iran, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Russia, Maydan continued that a meeting will be held to discuss the source of finance and the details of the pipeline projects. Ukraine is ready to participate in the agreement in transport between the two countries, he said. The ambassador concluded by saying that annually more than 1,200 Iranian trucks pass through Ukraine to Europe.

Azeri Parliament Official, Delegation Pay Visit

Aliyev Conveys Message From President

LD1206163695 Tehran IRNA in English 1503 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — Vice Speaker of Azeri Parliament, Yashar Aliyev [name as received] in a meeting Monday [12 June] with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani handed over Azeri President, Geydar Aliyev's written message.

In the meeting Aliyev told the president, "we will never forget your support and aid to people of Azerbaijan in the hard conditions."

Azerbaijan is interested to feel Iran's kindness and the Azeri president's emphasis is on the expansion of multilateral ties with Iran, he added.

Aliyev described Tehran-Baku initiatives for the promotion of multilateral ties as good and underlined the future cooperation of the two countries.

In the meeting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the cooperation among countries of the region as necessary for establishment of peace and stability. He said in view of the Iran-Azerbaijan natural conditions and religious commonalities, the people of Iran are as happy as the Azeri people over Azerbaijan's independence.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani underscored the continuation of Iran's aid to people of Azerbaijan and expansion of mutual cooperation.

Electoral Advice Sought

LD1306121995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yashar Aliyev, deputy speaker of Azerbaijan's parliament, met with Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri this morning. During the meeting Mr. Aliyev conveyed a written message from Rasul Guliyev, speaker of Azerbaijan's parliament.

Referring to the coming parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Aliyev asked for the Islamic Republic of Iran's experiences of parliamentary elections to be conveyed to Azerbaijan. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the closest friend of the people of Azerbaijan in difficult circumstances and said: Despite some improper stands adopted due to the inexperience of certain authorities in the state of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains the biggest helper of the Azerbaijan nation.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri referred at this meeting to the historical, religious, and cultural backgrounds of the two nations — the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran — and pointed out: This closeness is natural and comes from God. This makes it necessary for the two governments to have strong relations based on the ties between the two nations.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's comprehensive assistance to the Azerbaijani nation at difficult times, he added: So far we have rushed to assist the Azerbaijani nation with all our resources and capabilities. We believe that we should continue our assistance.

However, this is a reciprocal matter; and the Government of Azerbaijan should not behave in a way which makes the Iranian nation doubt its commitments to the Azerbaijan Republic.

Ties, Oil Consortium Discussed

LD1306150595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a news conference today, the deputy speaker of Azerbaijan's parliament called for the expansion of his country's ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Yashar Aliyev said: We are ready to broaden our ties in any field that Tehran deems desirable. Referring to the issue of Iran's membership in the Azerbaijani oil consortium, he said: The position which was declared was not our country's policy. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes Baku's Exploitation of Caspian

*LD1306072895 Tehran IRNA in English
0421 GMT 13 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA — The recent visit of Azeri vice-speaker of the national legislative assembly Yashar Aliyev to Tehran and his talks with Iranian officials are harbingers of good things to come, wrote an English-language daily here Monday [12 June].

The TEHRAN TIMES editorialized on the recent visit to Iran of the Azeri official and said the trip is a good reminder of the possibility of close cooperation between the two countries in all areas, notwithstanding recent spats, and the benefits that may be reaped in terms of increased mutual trade and efforts to achieve peace and security in the region.

"The reality of the relations between the two neighbors has been something else. Tehran is opposed to any exploitation of Caspian Sea resources before the approval of a legal regime governing exploitation of those resources. Baku, however, is already planning on the exploitation of the resources, hand in hand with foreign companies, which actually belong to the littoral states. Russia, too, has expressed its opposition to Azerbaijan's initiative of inviting foreign companies to the region without consulting its Caspian neighbors who have equal rights to exploit the resources," the paper commented.

Iran's interests in the Caspian Sea are vital to Tehran, the daily said, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran has made it clear that it won't compromise on this issue. "Iran has enough ways and means at its disposal to thwart U.S. attempts at domination. It is not advisable for Azeri Government to allow its foreign policy to come under U.S. influence," the daily added.

Underlining that consolidation of Tehran-Baku ties is in the interest of all regional countries, the paper said hence, both sides should improve relations to the extent that they become an example for other regional countries.

Azeri officials must realize that friendship with Iran means added strength for this newly independent republic and to have a friend like Iran means added national security and stability.

"The past couple of years in which Iran's initiatives helped the stability and territorial integrity of Azeri Republic should serve as a reminder to officials in Baku that Iran is the best friend they could have in the region and that they should spare no effort in keeping this valuable friend content and happy," TEHRAN TIMES concluded.

Russian Minister Pays Official Visit to Tehran

Cites Resistance to U.S. Pressure

*LD1106165695 Tehran IRNA in English
1642 GMT 11 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi in a meeting here Sunday [11 June] with visiting Russian deputy parliament speaker Aleksandr Vengerovskiy said, "Russia's commitment to its obligations and its resistance against U.S pressure proves that it can be a good partner for Iran."

Under the circumstances Iran and Russia can trust each other, Va'ezi said.

He said a legal regime should be determined for the Caspian defining the world's largest inland sea as a "sea of peace and friendship", so that any unilateral action which causes ambiguity in relations among littoral countries and ventures signed in this regard become null and void.

Iran and Russia along with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan share the coastline of the oblong Caspian Sea, which is believed to be rich in hydrocarbon reserves, in addition to its sturgeon fish catch which yields the prized caviar.

In the meeting Vengerovskiy urged the five Caspian countries to take advantage of the sea's resources in a just and fair manner.

Russian authorities are determined to strengthen their ties with Iran and no country can impose its will on Russia, he added.

The Russian Government will honour its commitments to Iran and the two countries should not allow foreign meddlings, Vengerovskiy said.

He called on Iran and Russia to set up a regional organization in order to expand bilateral ties.

The Russian official arrived in Tehran on June 8 for a six-day visit.

Meets With Nateq-Nuri

LD1206104995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri met Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, deputy chairman of the Russian Duma, on 12 June and told him that Iran and Russia should cooperate to prevent U.S. hegemony in the region.

The Majles speaker also thanked the Russian Government and people for their wise policies regarding Iran-Russia cooperation, which is opposed by the United States. Strengthening the two great countries of Iran and Russia will limit U.S. hegemony in the region, he said.

The Majles speaker reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia have many opportunities for cooperation and they should not allow U.S. domination in the region.

The United States seeks to undermine the identity of nations and to pressure countries into accepting its hegemony. If regional countries gave an inch to its hegemony, the United States will be even more aggressive in achieving its aims, he added.

In turn the Russian deputy speaker reported on the domestic situation in Russia and emphasized his country's will to expand and deepen relations between Iran and Russia.

He said the views of the Iranian and Russian officials are similar on the majority of international issues and this has prepared the grounds for even greater cooperation between the two countries.

Stating that the United States has deceived Russia, he said Russian closeness to the United States has caused poverty and wretchedness among the Russian people and that the United States has not honored its commitments to Russia.

The Russian official said that Iran, his country, and other regional countries should cooperate to prevent the presence of foreign powers in the Caspian Sea.

He said his talks with Iranian officials were successful and that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a rich culture and civilization.

Stresses Interest in Cooperation

LD1206122895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on 12 June, Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, Russian Duma deputy chairman, emphasized his country's interest in joint regional cooperation with Iran.

Mr. Vengerovskiy referred to aggressive U.S. efforts to create tension among the countries of the region and said the United States seeks to damage relations between Iran and Russia, while Russia wishes for the expansion and strengthening of relations with Iran.

In turn, Mr. Velayati referred to the increase in the U.S. military presence in the region which he said contradicts the interests of Russia and Iran and added that the wish of U.S. oil companies to have a presence in the Caspian Sea is the prelude for U.S. political presence in the region.

He stressed that articulation of the legal status of the Caspian Sea is a responsibility of the costal states and others have no right of interference in that regional issue.

Rafsanjani Voices 'Satisfaction' With Rome Ties

LD1206164695 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — The visiting Italian senator, Giulio Andreotti in a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Monday [12 June] attached importance to the political resolve in Iran and Italy to expand bilateral relations.

Pointing to Iran's active role in the international scene, Andreotti described Iranian principled stance towards regional issues as a sign of bravery and honouring the international norms.

Andreotti called on the media to introduce Iranian stance to the world public opinion.

Anreotti expressed concern over the one-sided influence of the mass media in the world and said the international media left negative impact on culture and tradition of the nations by dispatching distorted news.

The Italian life senator pointed to opening of a large Islamic center in Rome in a near future and said establishment of the Islamic center will serve to enhance the level of relations between Italy and the world of Islam.

President Rafsanjani voiced satisfaction with the growing trend of Tehran-Rome relations and said the huge project of Mubarakeh steel mill is a good example of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Rafsanjani referred to the negative implications of the Zionists' domination over the major mass media in the world and underlined the need for establishment of an international center to examine the extent of the illogicl impacts of the performance of the dominant mass media over the public opinion.

Anreotti arrived in Tehran on Saturday.

More Iraqi Refugees Arrive in Southwest Province

LD1206194595 Tehran IRNA in English
1654 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan Prov.), June 12, IRNA — Another 60 Iraqi refugees have arrived in Hour-ol-Howeizeh border area in this southwest province during the past four days, an official in Howeizeh district governorate office said.

The refugees have fled to Iran to secure their lives from Iraqi military men.

More than half of 4700 Iraqi refugees settled in Hour-ol-Howeizeh border area, have been moved to central and southern provinces of Iran.

Despite lack of international organizations' financial helps, Iran is host to two million Iraqi and Afghan refugees at the present.

Editorial Urges Normalized Relations With Iraq

LD1206172895 Tehran IRNA in English
0751 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — Iran and Iraq should realize that taking into consideration the prevailing conditions in the world, particularly in the region, it is time they shake hands and sincerely endeavor to expedite normalization of bilaeral relations, said a morning daily here Monday [12 June].

"One should not overlook the significance of Tehran-Baghdad reconciliation and its bearing on the betterment of conditions in other littoral states of the Persian Gulf," the English-language daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote in its editorial.

Iran's relations with these states despite continuous efforts of Washington to make them gloomy are quite normal, commented the daily.

Washington's pressure on Iran was more or less limited to being political, and its attempts to make it economically have also not produced a positive outcome, said the paper.

"As long as Iraq is kept isolated no one in the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms can rest assured of peace and stability. A desperate nation, particularly one ruled by a person who has demonstrated military adventurism on more than one occasion has to be naturally looked at cautiously — if not fearfully," noted the article.

It stressed that the Persian Gulf sheikhs knew it that Iran had no expansionist ambitions and that it never faltered in its elder brotherly attitude towards its neighbors even being fully aware of their substatial support to Iraq during the eight years of the imposed war.

"This elder brother with normal relations with one of its younger brothers (Iraq) could be, to a great extent, influential in encouraging Baghdad to adopt a less advanturous and more rational outlook as regards peace and stability in the Persian Gulf," it added.

Arguing that normal relations between Tehran and Baghdad were not detrimental to any of the Persian Gulf states, including saudi arabia, the paper said on the contrary, strained relations between the two major Muslim states were not to their advantage nor to the region.

"Neither Iran nor Iraq were going to gain by maintaining the status quo. A change for the better has to take place sooner or later. Why not now?"

Official Views Removal of UAE 'Misunderstanding'

LD1206144995 Tehran IRNA in English
1423 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi said here on Monday [12 June] Tehran is ready to remove the misunderstanding between Iran and the United Arab Emirates in the framework of the letter of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan to President Rafsanjani of Iran. [sentence as received]

Mohammadi stressed in the meantime that the three islands in the Persian Gulf belonged to Iran eternally. Iran has always taken the initiative in removing the current misunderstanding between the two countries and the visit paid by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Abu Dhabi was in the light of the importance Iran attached to the issue, he said.

"Iran as a large country in the region is interested in good neighbourly relations, peace and stability which serve regional security and common interests", Mohammadi said. The Foreign Ministry official said Iran awaits the arrival of the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs in Tehran in response to Velayati's visit to Abu Dhabi.

Mohammadi said some of Iran's neighbours in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) regardless of the threat posed by the Zionist regime to the region and the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf, have been driven to the extremes in raising the misunderstanding between Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Asked about the recent allegation of the Zionist regime foreign minister on Iran's nuclear program and that Islam in Iran is a great threat to the world, he repeated that Iran is not after nuclear arms. The spokesman said Iran's policy favours a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction and is against investment on centers producing nuclear weapons - a policy for which the occupying regime is under pressure and has put its supporters in a state of political deadlock.

The Zionist regime's antagonism towards Islam and the dignity of the Muslims has led the Zionists to make such statements against Iran something which will result in nothing but in further hatred for the Zionists, he concluded.

Radio Views 'Misunderstandings'

LD1306125695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 13 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday a spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry, stressing the permanence of Iran's ownership of the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, announced: Within the framework of a letter written by the amir of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to the president of Iran, Iran is prepared to resolve the current misunderstanding between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The Iranian effort to reach understanding with regional countries and to expand cooperation is not very much liked by the interfering major powers, for it could deprive the foreign powers of any excuse to remain in the region. They therefore try to create obstacles along the path of relations among the regional countries. A clear example of this claim can be observed in the policy pursued by foreign powers, particularly the United States, to exploit the misunderstanding between Iran and the UAE over the Iranian islands.

Political experts believe that, in view of Iran's desire to expand ties with the regional countries, and also in view of the message sent by the UAE amir to the Iranian president proposing to hold bilateral talks on the region's problems, it seems that the two countries have come closer to the phase of eliminating misunderstandings. Therefore, continued diplomatic contacts between Iran and the UAE could pave the way for greater understanding between the two countries and could lead to the expansion of ties between them.

Rafsanjani Inspects Academy of Sciences

LD1006131795 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 10, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday [10 June] inspected Iran's Academy of Sciences and was briefed on the existing problems of this major cultural and research complex.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, met and held talks with professors, researchers and members of the academy. He was also informed about the research projects of different groups of the academy and further voiced the Government's readiness to remove the financial obstacles in the way of the academy's various projects.

Expressing his resolve to further strengthen the academy, Rafsanjani underlined the need to supply it with modern communication technology to join international information networks.

The Sciences Academy plays a major role in directing the scientific and research moves of the country, Rafsanjani underlined adding that, the [words indistinct] the government is willing to develop the cultural complex.

Rafsanjani Inaugurates Major Laboratory Project

LD1206161695 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 12, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today inaugurated a major project for breeding lab animals as well as the production line of five new vaccines at the Razi Vaccine Research and Serum Making Institute in Karaj, 50 km. east of Tehran.

During the ceremony, the president said, "this research institute with production of two billion units of different types of vaccines, has so far played an important role in providing sanitation services to the public."

"Researchers are one of the valuable and important capitals of the country and that is why research is taken seriously in most of the research organs," Rafsanjani added.

The inauguration coincided with the first day of the Construction Jihad Week.

The president noted, "our universities have also begun research activities and have mobilized all their possibilities to this end."

The country's research links with the outside world should not be severed and we should use the world's scientific achievements, the president said.

Rafsanjani expressed the hope that in the future Iran would become with valuable scientific achievements.

In the ceremony, Deputy Construction Jihad Minister for Training and Research, Mohammad-Taqi Amanpour [name as received] said, "the number of researchers have increased during the first development plan. By the end of March 1995, we have registered 582 ms and ph.d graduates and 1227 researchers."

The Construction Jihad Week is held from 12th to 17th of June and its first day is designated as training and research.

New Conditions for Livestock Exports Viewed

95LA0238F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Apr 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Ahmad Torknezhad, deputy minister for plans and programs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—Based on 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the value of livestock and Iranian fishery production is $4.5 billion.**

In an interview with correspondents after making this announcement, Ahmad Torknezhad, the deputy minister for plans and programs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad, added: The level of protein production in 1373 has reached from 4.5 million tons to 6.3 million tons, which is a 30 percent increase.

He said: With this amount of production, 92 percent self-sufficiency in the procurement of protein products needed in the country has been achieved.

Continuing, he reported the projected level of production of protein products in 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] to be 670,000 tons of red meat, more than 450,000 tons of milk, 620,000 tons of chicken, 480,000 tons of eggs, and 400,000 tons of seafood.

He continued: Last year, 1 million head of livestock at a value of $80 million were exported, weighing a total of between 18,000 and 20,000 tons.

He added: According to the 1374 budget law, 1.4 million head of livestock will be exported this year at a value of $112 million.

Concerning the taxes that will be collected per head of livestock from exporters, he said: For every head of sheep, 70,000 rials [R], and for every head of goat, R20,000 will be collected.

Continuing he said: So far, the permits for the export of 200,000 head of livestock have been issued for this year, and to every legal person a permit for the export of a maximum of 1,000 head of livestock will be given.

The deputy minister for plans and programs of the Ministry of Construction Jihad pointed out: The new requirements for the issuance of livestock export permits will soon be announced. Based on these requirements, export permits will only be issued by mail, and applicants should not go directly to the Ministry of Construction Jihad.

Governor General Views Mashhad's Economic Status

95LA0237F Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan (IRNA)—Governor General of Khorasan, 'Ali Mofidi, said the economic life of the holy city of Mashhad is dependent on pilgrims and tourists, who every year contribute Rls.600 billion to the city's income through shopping.

Mofidi said construction of a Central Asian marketplace (Bazar) in Mashhad is one of the future projects to serve visitors, and to keep the quality and price of goods under control and observation.

He added that about 250 tourists visit Khorasan Province daily from the Central Asian countries of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.

Modifi said that as part of its export-oriented policies, this northeastern Iranian province is planning to establish commercial relations with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan during the Second 5-Year Development Plan (1995-2000).

The railway track linking Iran to the Central Asian network is to pass through Mashhad thereby increasing the economic importance of this holy city which houses the blessed Shrine of the 8th infallible successor of the Prophet(S), Imam 'Ali Ibn Musa al-Reza.(A.S)

Supply of Couponed Products Announced

95LA0241A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Apr 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of coupons provided for 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996], the status of basic goods, the reasons for the increased price of rice, and the measures adopted for breaking its price were announced in an interview with our correspondent by Ahmad Nosrati-Rad, Majles deputy from Rasht, and Majles observing member of the Basic Goods Purchase Council.

He said: In accordance with Notes 16 and 17 of the Second Five-Year Plan and in implementing Note 29 of the current year's Budget Law, $1.25 billion in foreign exchange has been allocated for the purchase of such basic goods as wheat, rice, cheese, vegetable shortening, sugar cubes, and sugar, to be given to the public as rationed goods during 1374.

He discussed the number of coupons for vegetable shortening in the current year. He said: In 1374 eight ordinary 450-gram [g] coupons will be given to the public, in addition to two extra 900 g coupons. If needed by the market, vegetable shortening coupons at the adjusted rate will also be announced.

The expert from the Commerce Commission discussed the coupons for sugar cubes, sugar, and cheese. He said: For the current year six ordinary 1,200 g sugar cube and sugar coupons will be provided for the urban areas along with four rural coupons, four tribal coupons, and four 250 g cheese coupons for each person.

He added: Likewise this year two rice coupons will be given, providing each person with three kilograms, and these will gradually be announced.

Nosrati-Rad discussed the distribution of nonsubsidized imported sugar. He said: The Wounded War Veterans Foundation is to import 300,000 tons of sugar and give it to the people. Of this amount 156,000 tons has been unloaded, 13,000 tons is being unloaded, 14,000 tons is on the way to be unloaded, 14,000 tons is being loaded, and 12,000 tons is waiting to be loaded in the countries of origin; 42,000 tons is on the way to be loaded; and overall we will have no problem of any kind with regard to sugar.

The deputy from Rasht discussed the purchase of meat from abroad. He said: Of last year's quota, which was 66,000 tons, 36,000 tons was imported and distributed last year. As for the remaining 30,000 tons, we had problems with that due to bank problems and the lack of commitment on the part of sellers. Officials are now negotiating to buy this amount of meat for gradual import and distribution.

The Majles observing member of the Basic Goods Purchase Council said the situation with the nation's wheat is satisfactory. He said: The country is not faced with any problem in this regard. This year the minister of agriculture has promised that we will produce about 6 million tons of wheat domestically and that we will also import about 3 million tons so that there will be a continuous supply.

The expert from the Commerce Commission discussed the fact that the situation this year with basic goods is much better than it was in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]. He noted: Late last year the necessary provisions were made for buying this year's goods, and about 50 percent of the goods needed for this year have already been purchased. It can be stated with certainty that we will not have the problems this year that we had in 1373.

He was asked about the excessive increase in the price of rice. He answered: There are various reasons for this. One is that imported rice is usually purchased each year from the month of Dey through the month of Khordad [22 December-21 June] and shipped into the country. This year, however, due to the great flood and the early seasonal rains in Vietnam, the failure to open credit accounts on time and other problems, even the purchases from Thailand, were not made on time.

Inside the country recently, farmers, due to forward purchase loans, made their crops available to the major buyers. The diversion of the rice into the hands of the non-producers led to price increases inside the country. On the other hand, since the rice purchased abroad was not imported in time, the government was not able to inject enough of this crop into the market. This consequently caused an excessive increase in the price of rice.

Nosrati-Rad discussed the measures that have been taken to procure the rice needed by the people. He said: In view of the fact that the rice that has been purchased will come into the country by late next month, the government will be able to do an extensive distribution throughout the country, and this will bring about a price adjustment.

He added: Of the 207,000 tons in the rice quota for 1373, about 67,000 tons has been unloaded, 16,000 tons is being unloaded, 25,000 tons is waiting to be loaded onto the ship, and 90,000 tons is on the way to be loaded.

In the same regard he added: The ships waiting to load will come into the country in the first half of the month of Khordad [21 May-5 June], and the ships on the way to be loaded will come into the country early in the month of Tir [22 June-22 July] and be unloaded.

The expert from the Commerce Commission noted: A total of 63,000 tons of rice has been bought from Vietnam out of the foreign exchange quota for 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], and this will be brought into the country by early in the month of Tir.

In conclusion he emphasized: The overall situation with the purchase and import of rice is such that its distribution on the domestic market will lead to a price decrease.

Billions To Be Spent on Country's Airports

95LA0241J Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr (IRNA)—The chief of the National Airline Organization said: This year 120 billion rials [R] is being spent to develop and equip the nation's airports.

On Monday night in Bushehr, Engineer Shahcheraghi added: The task of installing advanced navigation systems will begin soon in the nation's airports.

According to him, when this equipment, all of which has already been purchased, is installed, special facilities will be available to assure aircraft flight security.

He added: With the planning that has been done, in the Second Five-Year Plan all the nation's air routes will be equipped with radar systems.

The chief of the National Airline Organization said: The installation of tower and porch radar equipment at Mehrabad and Shiraz airports has been completed, and it will be operational by the end of the current year.

Eng. Shahcheraghi added: Likewise in the second Five-Year Plan all the province centers will have airports.

In this regard, this year 13 airports will be built in 13 of the nation's provinces.

Dollar's Open-Market Rate Reaches 5,050 Rials

95LA0241D Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—The selling price of the dollar on the open market increased to 5,050 rials [R] yesterday afternoon (Tuesday).

RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent reported that yesterday the selling prices of the major currencies on the free market had an unprecedented increase, and marks, pounds, and 100 yen were trading at R3,800, R7,650 and R5,400, respectively.

The climb in foreign exchange rates which began last week was accompanied in the last two days by fluctuations, so that yesterday morning on the free market the American dollar was trading at R4,780, at noon it made a sudden jump to R4,920, and at 1500 it reached R5,050.

Based on the same report, at 1900 yesterday the rates for the major currencies decreased, and the dollar was trading at R4,940.

Authorized currency traders were selling the dollar at R4,920.

The selling price of draft dollars was also announced at R5,000 at this hour.

Some currency exchange traders said the reason for the sudden increase in the price of foreign exchange yesterday, despite its decrease on Monday, was the recent statements by American officials about the full economic sanctions against Iran.

These currency traders said the reason for the decrease in the foreign exchange rate yesterday afternoon had been its false and unexpected increase. They said: When the price of foreign exchange suddenly increases after falling, there is a significant decline in the fever to buy.

In his report our correspondent added: Yesterday the selling price of the old design coins increased to R520,000 and the price of the new design increased to R490,000. Following the drop in the rates for the major currencies, these prices declined to R510,000 and R480,000, respectively.

Yesterday afternoon the free foreign exchange market was in a state of stagnation and few people were willing to buy or sell foreign exchange.

Based on the same report, yesterday the selling price of dollars earned from exports was R4,423 in the banking network and R1,750 in the floating system, and the export foreign exchange rate was announced as R2,245.

Three Percent of Eggs Produced Exported

95LA0241I Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—Due to the existing problems in the production sector, the amount of egg production in industrial units decreased about 20 percent last year compared to 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994].

Bohlul Naseri, executive director of the Union of Egg-Laying Chicken Farmers, announced this in an interview with RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent. He added: The current and actual capacity to produce eggs and chicken is greater than domestic consumption, but various reasons such as sharp market price fluctuations, temporary policies that change constantly, the lack of centralized production planning, and especially the lack of suitable organizations for distribution, packaging, and production and the lack of sufficient investment in the ancillary industries have reduced production and caused the current weak production management.

Continuing, Naseri said: Mentioning the existing problems does not mean that there is a problem with the production of eggs needed by the country. It means we have lost the ability we could have had to export, and thereby the opportunity to earn foreign exchange.

He said the capacity to hatch chicks for egg production in the country is 35 million laying hens per her. He added: This is enough to produce 450,000 to 500,000 tons of eggs. Of course in 1372 about 30 million chicks were distributed among the industrial egg-producing units, and last year this figure was 20 percent less than in 1372.

With regard to the finished cost of a kilogram of eggs, he said: Currently the finished cost of a kilogram of large eggs, not counting the profit is R1,650; the price of a 2-kg carton is R3,200. Therefore counting the approved profit for the producer and the distributor, the price to the consumer for a carton of large eggs is R3,700-R3,800.

He noted that current daily egg production at the industrial units is 1,000 tons. He added: 50 percent of this is produced in the Province of Tehran.

Elsewhere in this interview the executive director of the Union of Egg-Laying Chicken Farmers discussed last year's egg exports. He said: Last year about 15,000 tons of eggs, which is about 3 percent of the nation's egg production, were exported.

He added: Most eggs exported are small eggs. They are exported because they are not consumed that much domestically and are easy to ship.

He discussed the fact that the finished cost of a kilogram of eggs in Tehran is lower than international rates. He said: With planning and stable policies, it would be possible to take over the international egg markets.

Continuing, he added: Currently for every kilogram of eggs about 50 cents (based on the U.S. dollar) is spent on drugs and feed for the chicken. For exports, about 80 cents in foreign exchange is earned per kilogram. If there were guided and stable export policies, each kilogram of eggs could be sold for $1.

Naseri noted: Beginning in the second half of last year [23 September 1994-20 September 1995], we had great demand for eggs from Singapore, Kuwait, Dubayy, and the Central Asian and European nations. Due to the fact that we did not have authorization to export, in the long run we were not able to respond to them properly.

In conclusion he noted that since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1995] 100 tons of eggs have been exported. He said: It is expected that this year egg production in the industrial units will reach 300,000 to 330,000 tons.

Nepal

King Dissolves Parliament, Calls For Elections

Prime Minister Recommends Dissolution

BK1006083295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari, has recommended dissolution of parliament and holding of fresh elections in November. Mr. Adhikari met King Birendra last evening and conveyed this decision of his council of ministers. The king has already begun consultations with constitutional and legal experts on the issue. The king had earlier called a special session of parliament on the 16th of this month to consider a Nepali Congress-sponsored no-confidence motion. Talking to newsmen after meeting the king, Mr. Adhikari said there is no alternative under the Constitution except a midterm poll. He said his party held several rounds of talks with the opposition to avoid the midterm poll. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent Ratan Salve reports that the ruling Communist Party of Nepal-UML [United Marxist-Leninist] has the support of 93 members in the 202 member lower house and is dependent for its survival either on the Nepali Congress with 82 members or the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party [RPP] with 19 members. With the Nepali Congress deciding to move a no-confidence motion and the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party saying that it will support the motion, the fate of the present government was virtually sealed last Monday [5 June] after talks with the RPP broke down. The RPP general secretary, Mr. Ravindranath Sharma, has however said that there is no need for a midterm poll if an alternative could be found from within the existing parliament.

Opposition Parties Submit Memorandum to King

BK1106101895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nepal, the three non-left, national-level opposition parties have formally staked their claim to form an alternative government. AIR Kathmandu correspondent reports that about 80 members of Parliament belonging to these parties and two independents marched to the royal palace in Kathmandu this afternoon and submitted a memorandum to the king. Their move follows a recommendation to King Birendra by Prime Minister Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari on Friday [9 June] to dissolve Parliament and hold fresh elections.

Communique Issued; Parliament Dissolved

BK1306092495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nepal, the Parliament has been dissolved and fresh elections called for 23 November this year. This was announced in a royal communique in Kathmandu this afternoon. The prime minister, Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari, and his council of ministers will function as a caretaker government until the fresh elections.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent Ratan Salve, reports that Mr. Man Mohan Adhikari had recommended to King Birendra on the 9th of this month to dissolve Parliament and order fresh elections. The king held extensive discussions with political leaders and legal and constitutional experts before announcing his decision.

The main opposition, Nepali Congress, had called a special session of Parliament to move a motion of no-confidence against the Man Mohan Adhikari government. The session was to be held on the 16th of this month. Major non-left opposition parties — the Nepali Congress, the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, and the Sadbhavana Party — had also staked their claim to form an alternative government. Our correspondent says the king, however, ignored their claim and ordered fresh elections in accordance with the provisions of the Nepalese Constitution.

Pakistan

Turkey's Ciller Writes to Bhutto on Kashmir

BK1206043295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has said that her country supports brotherly Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, which should be resolved by peaceful means. In a message to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, she urged the parties concerned to try to settle the issue through dialogue on the basis of international law.

Condemning the desecration of Charar Sharif, the Turkish prime minister said this tragic event has once again emphasized the importance of urgently finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. She said it was indeed most unfortunate that developments in Charar Sharif, which she was following with concern, resulted in the desecration and destruction of the shrine of Sheikh Nuruddin Wali, the adjacent mosque and loss of life. Turkey, she said, holds a strong view of the inviolability of holy relics regardless of religious preference and firmly stands against the use of sacred places of worship toward political ends. Mrs. Tansu Ciller hopes that the shrine and the mosque will be rebuilt by the Indian Government at the earliest possible time.

Indian Strength in Kashmir Evokes 'Grave Concern'

BK1306043995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Expressing grave concern over the increase in India's military strength in occupied Kashmir, Pakistan has demanded an end to unprovoked shootings from across the Line of Control. A Foreign Office spokesman has said that four persons were killed due to recent Indian shooting; even the UN observers were not spared. He added that in April, two UN observers were stranded at a place due to Indian shooting, who were later rescued from there by helicopter.

The spokesman rejected Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's statement that India does not have a nuclear bomb. He expressed Pakistan's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. Referring to the Indian offer of talks, the spokesman said that Pakistan is always ready for talks provided a conducive atmosphere is created and India expresses its readiness to hold talks on the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

National Assembly Adopts Resolution on Kashmir

BK1106114895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly has called upon the international community to prevail upon India to seek a just and honorable solution of the Kashmir dispute by implementing its international obligations of holding a free, fair and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. The assembly adopted a resolution moved by the deputy leader of the opposition, Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan, unanimously amidst thumping of desks by members from all sides of the house. The resolution pledges Pakistan's continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of the occupied state in their resistance. It expressed complete solidarity with their just struggle for the right of self-determination promised to them by the United Nations, including India. It strongly condemned the destruction and desecration of historical shrine of Hazrat Nuruddin Wali, the mosque and madrasa [school] at Charar Sharif along with holy relics as well as thousands of homes and massacre of innocent Kashmiri men, women and children by Indian forces.

The resolution also condemned the inhumane attempts by the Indian government to crush the Kashmiri people by unleashing an unprecedented reign of terror. It deplored the threats brandished by the Indian leaders against Pakistan and expressed the resolve to resist and provide befitting response to such threats.

Soon after the house adopted the resolution, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as a gesture of goodwill personally thanked the deputy leader of the opposition, Mr Gauher Ayub Khan, for their all- out support on this vital national issues. The deputy leader of the opposition, Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan, in his speech said the country's first priority was national unity to face all the challenges. In this regard, he made several suggestions for better projection of the Kashmiri cause in the comity of nations, especially in ummah [Islamic community].

Assembly Proceedings Reported

BK1106140495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly today adopted a unanimous resolution condemning destruction of the holy shrine and masjid [mosque] at Charar Sharif and pledging Pakistan's support to the people of occupied Kashmir in their struggle for the right of self-determination. The resolution was adopted after a debate on the destruction of the shrine and mosque at Charar Sharif by Indian troops. The resolution was moved by Deputy Opposition Leader Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan.

[Begin Khan's recording] This house calls upon the international community to prevail on India to seek a just and honorable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute by implementing its international obligations of holding a free, fair and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution. [end recording]

The National Assembly pledged Pakistan's continued moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of occupied Kashmir in their resistance. The house expressed complete solidarity with the just struggle of the Kahsmiri people for the right of self- determination promised to them by the United Nations and India. The house deplored the threats of Indian leaders against Pakistan, remaining undeterred and fully resolved to resist and provide befitting response to such threats. [sentence as heard] The National Assembly extended its heartfelt condolences to the Kashmiri people. It urged the UN Human Rights Commission, OIC [Orgnaization of Islamic Conference] contact group, and International Committee of the Red Cross to visit occupied Kashmir and see human rights violations and massive loss of life and property with the purpose of arranging international relief and rehabilitation of the affected Kashmiri people. The house strongly condemned desecration and destruction of the holy shrine, masjid and madrasa at Charar Sharif. It condemned the cowardly, savage and inhumane attempts by India to crush the Kashmiri people by unleashing an unprecedented reign of terror, rape, and pillage. The National Assembly strongly condemned the destruction of holy places and thousand of homes and massacre of innocent Kahsmiri men, women and children. The resolution said the government of India and its occupation forces are fully responsible for this horrible act. It said the house was outraged over wanton and inhumane desecration and destruction of the historical shrine of Hazrat Nuruddin Wali, masjid and Madrasa at Charar Sharif, and holy relics by the Indian occupation forces.

Later, the speaker, Syed Yusuf Reza Gilani, put the resolution to vote which was unanimously adopted. [Begin Gilani recording] The question is that the substantive motion as moved by Mr. Raza Rabbani, minister of state for law and justice, on 1st June 1995 regarding the desecration of the shrine and mosque of Charar Sharif and amendments as moved by Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan, deputy leader of the opposition, may be adopted. All those in favor of the motion may say I. [collective sound of I by MP's is heard in background] All those against it may say no. [there is no response from MP's] I think the I's have it, the I's have it, the I's have it, and consequently the amended substantive motion is unanimously adopted. [applause] [end recording]

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto appreciated the unanimous passage of the resolution and thanked the deputy opposition leader for moving this important resolution reflecting complete national consensus on Kashmir issue.

Earlier, winding up the debate on Charar Sharif, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said the people of Pakistan are united in supporting the just cause of the Kashmiri people for their right of self-determination. He said the hegemonistic designs of India are a threat to peace in the region. He said besides a massive arms build up, New Delhi has launched its missile program Prithvi which is Pakistan-specific. Pakistan has made it clear that it will not allow tactical advantage to New Delhi and will respond to its missile program. Pakistan is ready for talks with India on the basis of eight non-papers — two by Pakistan and six by New Delhi. However, India should stop its repressive measures, remove draconian laws, and bring an end to the reign of terror let loose in the held- valley.

In his speech, the deputy leader of the opposition, Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan, called upon politicians to forge unity among their ranks in the supreme national interest. He called for economic stability and holding of a conference of speakers of Muslim countries for promoting the Kashmir cause.

Official Dismisses Rumors of Karachi 'Lawlessness'

BK0906160295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has appealed to the people not to fall prey to the propaganda and rumors of certain elements in Karachi. In a statement in Karachi today, he referred to press statements and pamphlets through which rumors are being spread in the city that Karachi will face lawlessness in next few days that will disrupt the supply of essential commodities. The Sindh chief minister said the government is fully aware of the conspiracy, but it is well prepared to foil all such nefarious designs. He said the people understand this conspiracy and expressed his confidence that they will distinguish between their friends and foes. He made it clear the government is committed to eradicating terrorism from society with the help of the people. Syed Abdullah Shah assured the people that they would never face any shortage of essential commodities in the coming days. Instead, they will hear news about the restoration of peace and normalcy in the city.

Spokesman Rejects Proposed Karachi Operation

BK1006085295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the reports published in some newspapers yesterday, an official spokesman rejected an impression that some major operation is to be launched in Karachi soon. The spokesman said there are reports that certain terrorists of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement Altaf Group are planning to create lawlessness soon after the 10th day of Muharram in which rocket and grenade launchers will be used. The spokesman also said the government has made security arrangements in light of these reports.

An official press note says one person was killed and two injured in firing incidents in Karachi yesterday.

Nawaz Claims Bhutto 'Part of Karachi Problem'

BK1306052995 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore, June 12 (PPI): Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Opposition and President Pakistan Muslim League (N) said here Monday [12 June] that he considered Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto as part of the Karachi problem and believed that she was in no way a solution to the problem.

He was talking to a delegation of Editors and newspaper publishers belonging to Newspapers Editor Council of Pakistan (NECP) and Pakistan Newspapers and periodicals Organisation (PNPO) at his residence here Monday afternoon.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif who talked to the delegation for about three hours briefed them about the current political situation prevailing in the country at length with particular reference to the Karachi situation.

The members of the delegation included, Majid Nizami, Fasih Iqbal, Hameed Haroon, Arif Nizami, Inquilab Matri, Zahid Malik and several other editors and newspapers owners from all over the country.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said the solution of the Karachi problem lay minus Bhutto family from Pakistan's politics because the interests of Pakistan could never be safe so long as any member of this family remained in power in the country.

He said the situation in Karachi was assuming large proportions every day and people have now come to believe that Benazir Bhutto had been got installed in power by certain powers to fulfil the foreign agenda.

He regretted that situation in Karachi was going from bad to worse every day but the government was paying little attention to improve it.

He said that he feared emergence of similar situation in Karachi as in the former East Pakistan. It was a wrong attitude to label any body as a traitor. The previous rulers had labelled Sheikh Mujibur Rehman as a traitor who later on out of vengeance tried to prove himself to be so. Ninety five percent people in Karachi are patriotic Pakistanis and to doubt their integrity or loyalty Pakistan was bound to spell a doom for the country. Ninety percent of the people in East Pakistan never wanted cessation from Pakistan out once their loyalty was doubted they rebelled. Only 10 percent people in East Pakistan could be termed as cessionists but when the situation there became out of the hand of the government the rest of the 90 percent people could not face these paltry 10 percent.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said the economy of the country presented a very gloomy look today and it had perturbed the minds of every patriotic Pakistani. At present India was growing economically every day with the result that it was also gaining strength militarily.

Sri Lanka

President Pledges To Safeguard 'Unitary Status'

BK1106114795 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga has pledged to safeguard Sri Lanka's unitary status in her capacity as the head of government. She said that all measures will be taken to control the forces that try to divide the people. The president appealed to the international community to assist in the programs started by the government in this regard. The president was speaking as chief guest at the 10th annual general meeting of the Asian Christian Conference, which opened in Colombo yesterday.

Minister Discusses Steps for National Defense Fund

BK0906140595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government will take revenue measures to support the defense expenditure without causing burden to the people. Deputy Minister of Finance Professor G.L. Peiris at the weekly cabinet briefing yesterday said that there won't be any change in the bread and fertilizer subsidy and other welfare programs. He said that the government would not go for extensive domestic borrowings or obtain finances from the central bank. He said that the government has decided to increase excise tax on several luxury consumer items. The tax on motor vehicles [and] air conditioners with capacity exceeding 19,000 British Thermal Unit will be increased from 10 to 35 percent. The tax on food items such as processed meat, perfumes, sprays [and] cigarette lighters will also be increased from 10 to 20 percent. The tax on pianos and other keyboard and stringed instruments will also be increased from 5 to 10 percent. The tax on eau de cologne other than the baby eau de cologne will be increased to 35 percent.

Professor Peiris said that the privatization program will be accelerated to earn 1,000 million rupees. The defense levy will also be increased by 1 percent, being a revenue of around 2 million rupees. The government will also impose a 10-percent cut on nonpriority rupee fund at capital expenditure projects. All new projects will be postponed until the end of the year. The minister also said that 1,500 million rupees of the Ceylon Electricity Board's accumulated profit will be transferred to the treasury.

The cabinet has decided that a compulsory contribution of one day's salary for a period of four months should be made by cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, secretaries to the ministries, heads of corporation and other statutory boards to the National Defense Fund. The government calls upon all public and private sector organizations to make contributions toward this fund.

Government Extends State of Emergency to Airport

BK0906032295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Government has extended the state of emergency to areas surrounding the Colombo international airport. The state of emergency is in force in parts of the island, including the war-torn northeastern province, as also the capital. Areas under the international airport at Katunayake, around 35 km from Colombo, have been brought under emergency with immediate effect.

Vote on Extension Reported

BK0906125495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The motion to extend the state of emergency in the north and east and several divisional secretariat areas was passed in parliament by a majority of 40 votes; 118 MP's voted for the motion, while 78 MP's voted against it. Winding up the debate, Deputy Minister of Defense Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte said that the aspirations of the majority community was to live in peace. This would be achieved by government by defeating LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militarily. The minister said that shortcomings in the past 12 years would be rectified and peace restored in the country soon.

'Sources' Report Rebels Killing Informants

BK0906093895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, June 9 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed five civilians accused of collaborating with Sri Lankan security forces in the embattled north, Tamil sources said Friday [9 June].

The five civilians, all Tamils from northern Omanthai, were killed Thursday by a firing squad set up for the purpose by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Tamil sources said.

The five Tamils were picked up by the LTTE on charges of "collaborating" with security forces, further south of Omanthai, Tamil sources said.

The LTTE, which runs a de-facto administration in the northern areas under its control, have carried out similar killings of suspected informants in the past.

The LTTE is battling government troops in the northeast in its bid to carve out an independent nation in the region for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils. Thousands have died in the LTTE-led separatist struggle.

'Powerful Bomb' Explodes Outside Army Headquarters

BK1106151895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1504 GMT 11 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 11 (AFP) — A powerful bomb exploded oustide Sri Lanka's army headquarters located in a high security zone of the capital Colombo late Sunday [11 June], police said adding that there were no casualties.

A parcel bomb went off at the Galle Face Centre Road, opposite the heavily-guarded army headquarters and right in front of a police roadblock on Sunday night, a police officer said.

"The blast has left a crater that is about one foot deep. It went off in a place where people don't gather," a police spokesman said.

However, he said that across the road there were hundreds of people who had come to the Galle Face promenade.

The blast came two days after a similar explosion ripped through a bus at the main Pettah bus station, wounding at least four people and six days after an abortive bomb attack against the Colombo International airport.

A car bomb failed to activate completely at the airport and damage was limited to the vehicle in which some 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of plastic explosives were packed.

The military has blamed the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the bomb attacks although there has been no word from the rebels to claim responsibility.

Sri Lankan security forces are battling the LTTE in the island's northern and eastern regions where they want to establish an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

Rebels Kill 16 Soldiers in 'Heavy Mortar Attack'

BK1206170295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1635 GMT 12 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 12 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed 16 soldiers in a heavy mortar attack against a newly established jungle base of the army in eastern Sri Lanka Monday [12 June], defence sources said.

Gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) mounted the major offensive against the army position near the village of Kiran in the coastal district of Batticaloa Monday evening, the sources said.

No further details were immediately available.

Death Toll Mounts to 18

BK1306051995 Hong Kong AFP in English
0435 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 13 (AFP) — The military's death toll in a Tamil guerrilla attack against an army base in eastern Sri Lanka rose to 18 on Tuesday [13 June], defence sources said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shelled the base with mortar bombs and followed it up by firing automatic weapons at a newly established jungle base in the Batticaloa district Monday, the sources said.

"A total of 18 soldiers, including a captain have been killed and seven more wounded in the heavy fighting," the defence source here said adding that they had no immediate figures for rebel casualties. Two troopers died from their injuries on Tuesday.

The latest fighting raised to 340 the number of security forces killed since the LTTE pulled out of a three-month truce and resumed their guerrilla campaign for an independent homeland on April 19.

The military has claimed killing at least 350 rebels during the same period.

The shelling ended a week-long lull in guerrilla attacks against security forces in the eastern region where the rebels targetted civilians whom they suspected to be military informants.

Monday's attack came as security forces and police remained on red alert in the nearby district of Anuradhapura to protect thousands of Buddhist pilgrims, local officials said.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland for minority Tamils concentrated in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions. Over 50,000 people have died in fighting since 1972.

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